



Mackenzie Glen Public School

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 @MackenzieGlenPS

September 2014

Principal
Mr. B. Taha

Vice Principal
Ms A. Rye-Brown

School Council Chair
Ms P. Wood
Ms J. Shelton

Superintendent
of Schools
Ms S. Logue
(905) 764-6830

Trustee
Ms A. Debartolo
(905) 898-9653

PA DAY

There will be
No School
for students on
Monday,
September 22,
2014

School Council General Meeting

Thursday,
September 18,
2014 at
7:00 p.m.

All parents are
welcome to attend.



A message from the Office...

Welcome to our 2014-2015 school year at Mackenzie Glen Public School. We hope your summer was enjoyable, relaxing and refreshing.

"There is no greater power than a community discovering what it cares about. Ask 'What's possible?' not 'What's wrong?' Keep asking. Notice what you care about. Assume that many others share your dreams. Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters."

Margaret Wheatley

Your child matters. We at Mackenzie Glen want to continue conversations about your child, about our school and about our community. This means as parents, you are encouraged to be involved in your child's education.

Why would we want parents to be involved in their child's learning?

According to the research:

- Students do better in school and in life. They are more likely to earn higher grades and test scores, graduate from high school, and go on to higher education.
- Parents become empowered. Parents develop confidence by helping their children learn at home.
- Teacher morale improves. Teachers who work with families expect more from students and feel a stronger connection to and support from the community.
- Schools get better. When parents are involved at home and at school, in ways that make them full partners, the performance of all children in the school tends to improve.
- Communities grow stronger. Families feel more invested in the school system, and the school system becomes more responsive to parent and community needs.

Please join the Mackenzie Glen family in making our students and school a great success. We intend to maintain high expectations and, with your support and guidance, continue to lead your children, our students, on the path to being not only productive but respectful and responsible members of society.

We are very excited and proud as administrators of Mackenzie Glen Public School to work with a wonderful staff. All our staff have been working very hard over the summer in preparation for today's opening. We owe Mr. Reinhardt, Mr. Henderson, Mr. Heighton and Mr. Marcellini, our caretaking staff, gratitude for their work in preparing the school building for the opening of school. We thank Ms Nupoort and Ms Kemble who have been registering new students, securing and creating teacher resources, as well as completing the numerous office tasks required to launch a new school year.

We are looking forward to working together with all of you as we collaborate to ensure each student has ...**Roots to help grow, and Wings to help fly!**

Mr. B. Taha
Principal

Ms A. Rye-Brown
Vice Principal



Our School Hours

Parents, guardians and students are reminded of school entry, recess and dismissal times. We encourage students to be on time for school, as late arrivals cause disruptions to a class that is already in session. **If your child will be absent, or late, please contact the school.** Additionally, if a student needs to leave early for an appointment, please send a note to your child's teacher that morning with the details thus eliminating the need for the office to have to call into the classroom and disrupt the class. Where possible, arrangements should be made ahead of time.

When your child will be absent from school, please take a moment to call to advise us of the absence. If you need to call before the school day begins we have an answering machine available between 4:00pm and 8:00am to take your message. You can call whenever it is convenient for you. Please make sure you speak slowly and clearly, providing details of the absence. A call is required each day of the absence. This is part of the YRDSB Safe Arrival Program.

If we do not receive a call, or if we cannot contact a parent or one of the emergency contacts listed, Board policy is for the school to notify York Region Police.

School Day

Supervision begins	8:00
Entry Bell	8:15
Period 1	8:15-9:05
Period 2	9:05-9:55
Recess	9:55-10:15
Period 3	10:15-11:05
Period 4	11:05-11:55
Lunch	11:55-12:55
Period 5	12:55-1:35
Period 6	1:35-2:35
Dismissal	2:35

***Please remember to call the school if your child will be late or absent.
Especially in the event of a religious holiday.***

Cycle Schedule

With the full implementation of Full Day Kindergarten at all of our York Region District School Board Schools, all schools will move to a 'cycle calendar'. The cycle calendar will replace the regular days of the week on your child's timetable. This will ensure that 'instructional days' are not missed due to holidays or PA Days.

The cycle is 5 days—Day 1, Day 2, Day 3, Day 4 and Day 5. The school calendar at the back of each newsletter will indicate the cycle day.

Welcome to New and Returning Staff!

We are pleased to announce new staff to our school.

Welcome to Ms Cogan, Ms Genovese, who join our teaching staff from other schools. Welcome to Ms DiGrigoli who will be the full year LTO for Ms Lee. Welcome back to Ms Madden who will assume Ms Scott's LTO until February. Welcome back to Ms Quach who will be completing the remainder of Ms Borzellino's maternity leave.

Also welcome to Ms Robinson and Ms Vida who are joining our support staff as Child and Youth Workers. Welcome Ms Jafari who will be an educational assistant for this school year. Welcome to Ms Fulton and Ms Vitelli who will be joining our FDK team as Designated Early Childhood Educators—DECEs.

Also, welcome back to Mr. Aulakh and to Ms McGinn who have returned from leave. We are delighted to have you all back!

Last, but definitely not least, a BIG welcome to Ms Rye-Brown our incoming Vice Principal.

Please join us in welcoming our new and returning staff to our Mackenzie Glen family.

Medication Required?

The safety of our students is paramount. Please let the office know of any medical conditions or allergies that affect your child by filling it in on the Emergency Form. It is a good idea to mention any significant health issues to your child's home-room teacher.

Children who need to take medication at school require a ***Request for Administration of Oral Medication Form*** signed by the parent before the medication can be given. If your child requires medication during the school day please speak to Ms Kemble in the office.

School Security

All YRDSB schools have been outfitted with a front door buzzer and surveillance system. Beginning earlier this year, the front doors will continue to be locked at 8:30 am. Visitors and family members will be required to ring the buzzer and may need to wait to be buzzed in by the office staff.

Dropping off items: Currently, there are many families dropping off lunches, homework, and various other items. To avoid having to wait to be buzzed in, we highly recommend that families send all lunches and materials needed with your child in the morning.

Classroom Interruptions: We do our best not to interrupt instructional time for our students. Unless it is an emergency, if you are calling to leave a message for your child we will wait until recess or the end of the day to deliver the message. The same will occur for items dropped off during the day. Of course, plans made ahead of time are best as it limits the interruptions to the school day.

We thank you for your cooperation to ensure the safety of each of our students.

Home/School Communication

Parental involvement is a determinant factor in student achievement and success in school. One important way to become involved is to communicate regularly with school.

At Mackenzie Glen, it is our goal to have regular communication between home and school. We aim to achieve this in a variety of ways:

- Student agenda
- Direct Email Updates
- Monthly Newsletters
- Classroom and Divisional Newsletters
- Twitter Feed—Follow us @MackenzieGlenPS
- Scheduled meetings
- Phone calls are always welcome

Should you have any questions with regards to communication, please speak to your child's teacher or someone in the office.

Student Busing Eligibility

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.

For more information about bus transportation and to determine your son/daughter's eligibility please visit:

www.schoolbuscity.com



Combined Grade Classes

A class of combined grades is composed of students from two or more adjacent grades who are grouped with one teacher for instruction. In all classrooms, no matter how they are organized, teachers need to provide for the individual needs of students. To achieve this, they use a variety of methods on a daily basis to assess the needs of each student, and then adjust the focus of instruction for skill development accordingly. The focus of instruction for all subjects is on helping students to advance regardless of age, grade, or current level of performance.

Within a class of combined grades, students work towards the achievement of their **grade-specific curriculum expectations**. When common “big ideas” or skills are involved, all students in the class often work together, but at other times, instruction may be specific to each grade. Assessment, evaluation and reporting are grade-specific.

Why do you have classes of combined grades?

Most classes of combined grades are created to accommodate students in a school where it is not possible to create only single-grade classes. For example, if there are thirty Grade 2 students, thirty Grade 3 students, and three teachers, the only way to organize the children into smaller classes is to combine some students from both grades in one class.

What are the benefits of placement in a class of combined grades?

There are many socio-emotional benefits for students who are in classes with students of various ages. For example, in such classes peer interactions have been shown to be very positive; students have opportunities for greater development of social skills and cooperation skills and students often develop a feeling of comfort and security, a positive self-concept, and a sense of satisfaction with their achievements. There are also significant opportunities for development of leadership skills and for learning from peers. In studies measuring academic achievement, students in classes of combined grades were found to perform as well as students in single grade classes.

Why was my child chosen to be in a class of combined grades?

When placing students in all classes, we consider a variety of factors, including number of students, number of boys and girls and students’ interests, strengths, needs, learning styles, motivation, work habits, emotional development, maturity and cooperation. We also consider student academic achievement.

The placement of your child in the higher grade of a split class does not mean that your child has not met curriculum requirements. If your child is in the lower grade, they are not necessarily ahead of their peers in a straight grade.

Will the teacher have as much time for each child in a class of combined grades?

The amount of time for an individual student is not determined by the organization of classrooms by grade. In all classrooms, teachers employ a number of instructional strategies to address the needs of all students. On a daily basis teachers work with large groups, small groups and individual students.

(Ministry of Education, Combined Grades, 2007)

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/combinedClassrooms/combinedClassrooms.pdf>

Curriculum Night

Thursday, October 2, 2014
at 7:00 pm

We look forward to welcoming you!
Mark your calendars. More information to follow.



Tentative Homeroom Organization 2014-2015

We are thrilled to begin our new school year with 23 homeroom classes. Please see below for the *tentative* teacher assignments for 2013-14 school year.

Teacher	Grade	Room
Ms Schatzky/Ms Amanullah	K	110
Ms Madden/Ms Vitelli	K	113
Ms DiGrigolio/Ms Manoharan	K	119
Ms Chow/Ms Fulton	K	120
Ms Park	1	103
Ms Rabinovitch	1	104
Ms Muzzatti	2	109
Ms Raviandran	2	108
Ms Kaur	2/3	125
Ms Quach	3	124
Ms Facchini	3	121
Ms Fabiano	3/4	122
Mr. Locke	4	218
Ms Norris	4/5	219
Ms McGinn	5	222
Ms Di Mascio	5/6	200
Ms Dodaro	6	201
Ms Bernbaum	6	221
Mr. Charalambous	7	204
Mr. Aulakh	7	205
Mr. Lewis	7/8	206
Ms Cogan	8	203

Remember, the school organization may change based on student enrolment and need. We carefully monitor our enrolment number and registrations during the month of September. There is a possibility that students and teachers may need to be reorganized by September 22nd in order to meet the Ministry of Education guidelines for class sizes.

For more information regarding the Ministry of Education commitment to reduced class sizes:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/cst/>

Creating a Safe & Healthy School for Children with Allergies

School staff and parents strive to create a safe and healthy environment for all students. This is an additional challenge for schools attended by children with allergies, especially life threatening allergies. While it is impossible to create a risk-free environment, 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 so that we have accurate records and establish the protocol to follow with your child.

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, artificial nuts and macadamia 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.

If you are unsure about a chosen product, please do not send it to school. We thank you for your cooperation. Remember It could easily be your child!

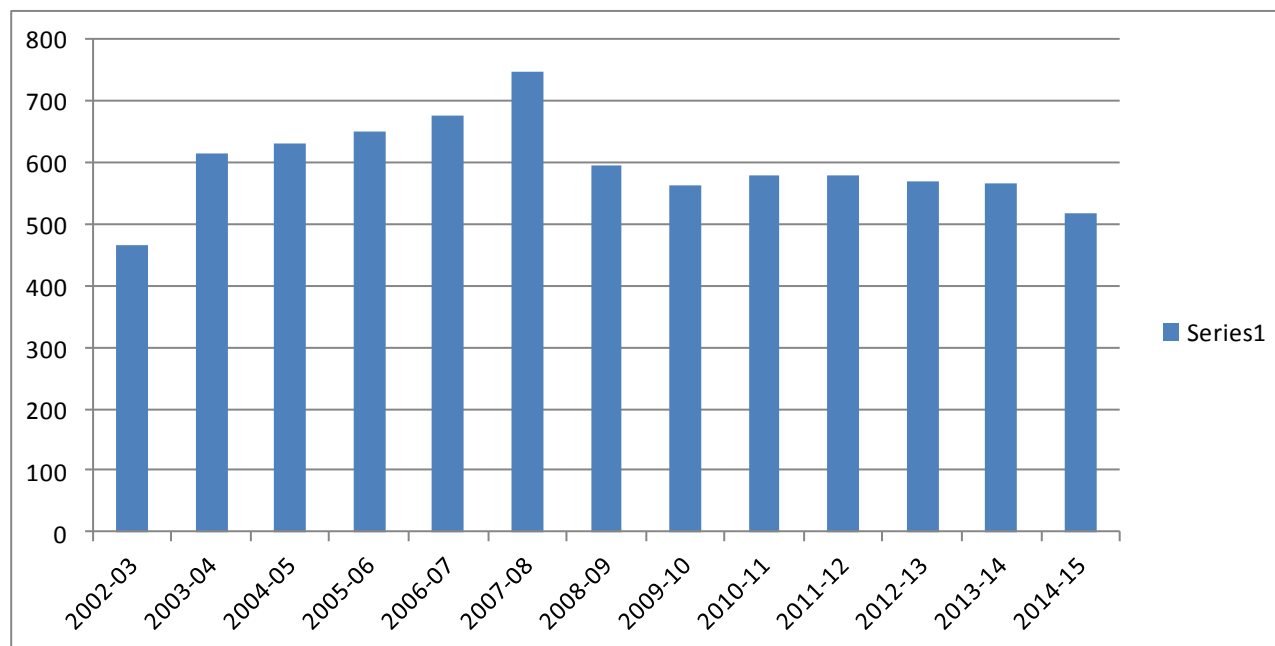
An important note: We ask that you DO NOT send any food items to school for birthdays and other celebrations! Thank you for your support!

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

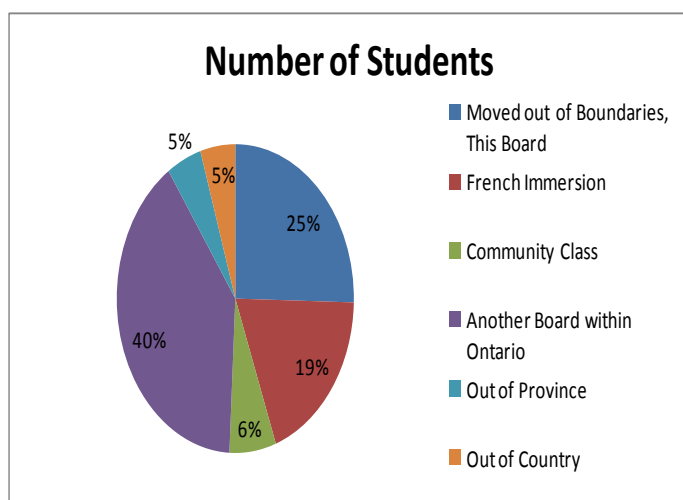
The York Region District School Board recognizes and highlights the significant achievements of our students through a variety of sources—front hall displays, school and board publications, as well as in the media and on our computer web site, special fundraising events that attract media attention, recordings and displays for events such as graduations and seasonal celebrations. We believe this recognition is essential to enhance our students' self esteem and to foster a positive school environment. To enable us to be in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act we request that those parents who do NOT want their child(ren)'s accomplishments recognized, work displayed or photographs taken for this purpose, please notify the Principal **in writing**.

Mackenzie Glen Public School's Changing Demographics

It is typical in the life of a school to go through significant growth patterns in terms of population. Mackenzie Glen PS is no exception. Upon its opening in 2003, Mackenzie Glen had 465 students. It continued to grow over the years peaking at 750 students. As the students within the boundaries grow older, the population begins to decline.



With the majority of the students in our boundaries growing older, our school population faces a decline. Over the past school year, we have tracked the number of students leaving Mackenzie Glen.



Demitted To	Number of Students
Moved out of Booundaries, YRDSB	16
French Immersion	12
Community Class	4
Another Board within Ontario	25
Out of Province	3
Out of Country	3
TOTAL	63

As our school demographics continue to change, Mackenzie Glen must continue to adapt to our students, their families and their needs. Staffing of schools is provided based on enrollment. As our school population continues to decline, we risk losing much needed support in terms of administration, caretaking, secretarial, support and teaching staff.

Despite the decline in enrollment, we continue to strive to be the best place to educate your child. We continue to offer an inquiry based program in language and mathematics, engaging extracurricular activities, and the latest and most effective tools in technology.

We Need *YOU!*

Mackenzie Glen Public School Council Nominations

Are you interested in being a part of our School Council? Your participation can make a difference by strengthening our community partnerships. Our School Council will meet on the council approved dates for this year beginning on September 18th. Meetings are held in the library at 7:00pm. Newcomers are always welcome! You do not have to be a member of the School Council to attend meetings.

According to the Ministry of Education Regulation 612.0 and in accordance with Board Policy 262, I formally give notice that nominations are now open for our School Council. Nominations will close on Thursday, September 18th at 2:00pm.

Once parents have been elected to the School Council, those parents will then elect the Executive of the School Council. The elections of the School Council Executive will be held at our first School Council meeting on Thursday, September 18th at 7:00 p.m. in our library.

School Council Chair:

- Acts as a liaison between parents and the Principal/Vice-Principal.
- Plans meeting agendas with the Principal.
- Works with other parents on the council to achieve council goals.

Secretary:

- Takes notes during the meeting.
- Distributes notes to the other members.

Treasurer:

- With administrative assistant, develops a financial report for council funds
- Ensures that administrative assistant is aware of upcoming council contributions/expenditures
- Shares financial report with council

Members at Large:

- Attend school council meetings on a regular basis.
- Provide input during meetings.
- Lend support when available.

If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact the school. If you are interested in becoming a member of the School Council please complete the 'School Council Nomination Form' found as part of the School Start-up forms. Please return all completed forms to the office.

School Start-Up Packages

With this newsletter, you would have received a School Start-Up Package. Included in this 'School Start Up' package are student forms based upon York Region District School Board policies and procedures. Please complete and return the forms to school with your child at your earliest convenience. A complete list of YRDSB policies and procedures are available online: www.yrdsb.ca.

A reminder that if your contact information changes throughout the year, you must notify the office. This includes address, cell phone numbers, work numbers etc. Packages are due back to school on:

Monday, September 8, 2014

Before/After School and Daycare

York Region District School Board has approved Upper Canada Child Care as the daycare provider for our school. The program is offered from 7:00 am until school begins and again from school dismissal until 6:00 pm. It is open to students in JK to 12 years old.

If you require information they can be contacted at (905) 832-7290. Please leave your name, phone number and a brief message. Staff will respond within 24 hours of your call.

You can also access their website at:

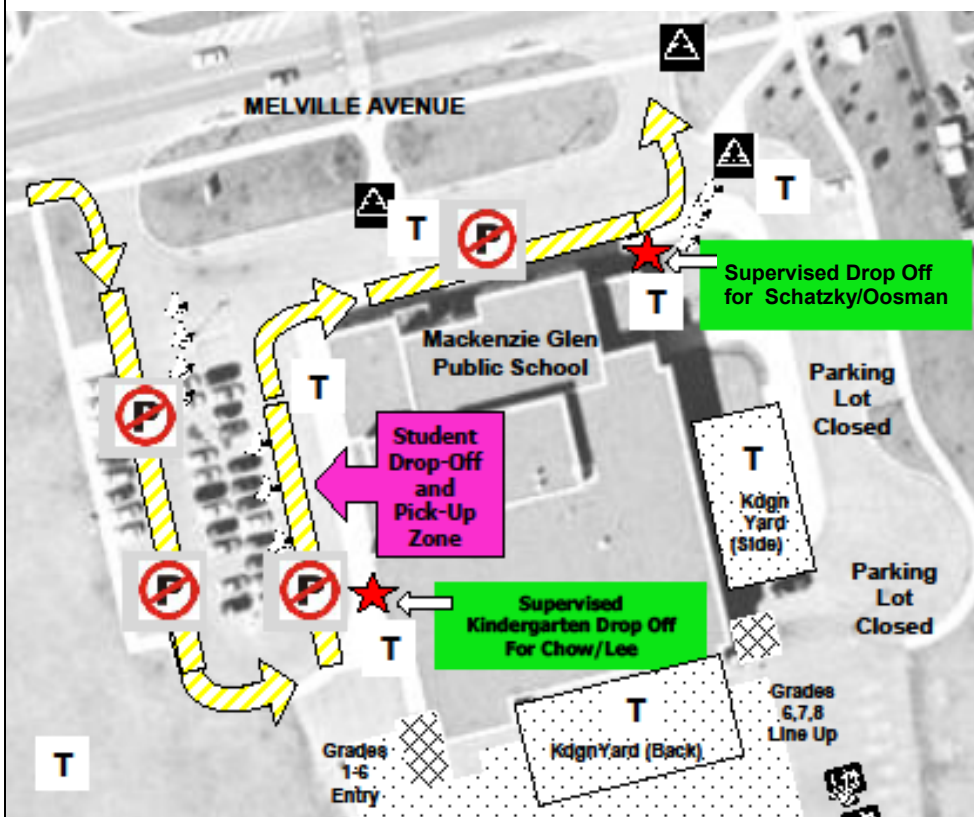
www.uppercanadachildcare.com

Kiss N' Ride Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures

Your child's safety is a priority at Mackenzie Glen Public School.

If driving is necessary, we ask that you follow the procedure outlined on the attached map and adhere to the following guidelines:

For students in grades 1 to 8, we would like to utilize our large parking loop by directing traffic through the loop and around to the yellow, lined Drop-off and Pick-up Zone. Cars will be waved all the way up to the front of the loop where 5-6 vehicles can drop off at the same time. It is very important that you do not let your children off at any other part of the loop, as walking through the parking lot is extremely dangerous. As well, when cars stop throughout the loop it holds up traffic for the cars behind you. Once you have



dropped off your child in the Drop-off Zone, you may continue out along the front of the school using the **FAR LANE** of the front driveway (the lane closest to Melville).

For students in Kindergarten, cars will enter the same way as above and circle through the entire loop, waiting patiently as other cars drop off. There will be two Kindergarten Drop-Off areas. The regular Drop-Off zone will be used for students in Ms Chow and Ms Digrigolio's classes and a teacher will accompany these students to the back kindergarten play area. For students in Ms Schatzky and Ms Madden's classes, please continue through the loop and drop off your child just before the exit to Melville, where a teacher will walk your child to the side Kindergarten play area.

Do not park your vehicle at the front of the school at any time.

Let's work together for student safety...

- Drive all the way through the loop and only drop off your children in the Drop-Off zone.
- Pull all the way up into the drop off zone—5 or 6 cars can drop off at the same time.
- Students should have their bags ready on their laps.
- To ensure a quick and safe drop-off, parents are not to get out of the vehicle.
- Students are to exit from the passenger side of the vehicle ONLY.
- Students should never walk through the parking lot.
- End of day Pick-Up: You will have to circle the loop, exit onto Melville and re-enter the loop if your child is not ready for pick-up at the end of the day.
- Always follow the direction of staff wearing vests.

We are a team! When we work together to follow routines, our students feel safe and confident when arriving and departing from school.

Supervision begins at 8:00am. Your child should arrive between 8:00-8:15 to give everyone plenty of time to safely drop off, as well as to give our students a calm and orderly start to their day.

At Mackenzie Glen PS we value SAFETY over Convenience!

SEPTEMBER 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labour Day First Parkash	2  Day 1	3 Day 2	4 Day 3	5 Day 4	6
7	8 Ananta Chaturdasi Day 5	9 Day 1	10 Day 2	11 Coptic/Ethiopian Orthodox New Year Day 3	12 Day 4	13
14	15 Day 5	16 Day 1	17 Day 2	18 School Council Meeting, 7:00 pm Day 3	19 Day 4	20
21	22 Mabon PA Day—No School	23 Day 5	24 Day 1	25 ♦ Rosh Hashanah Navartri begins Day 2	26 ♦ Rosh Hashanah Day 3	27
28	29 Day 4	30 Day 5	YRDSB School Holidays & PA Days 2014-2015			
				November 14	PA Day	
				December 22– January 2	Winter Break	
				February 2	PA Day	
				February 16	Family Day	
				March 13	PA Day	
				March 16-20	March Break	
				April 3	Good Friday	
				April 6	Easter Monday	
				May 18	Victoria Day	
				June 5	PA Day	
				June 26	PA Day	

Upcoming Dates

October	
21	Grade 7 and 8 Girl immunizations
2	School Bus Safety Program
2	Curriculum Night
8	Photo Day
27	PA Day—No School
13	Thanksgiving Day—No School