



## Weekly Newsletter Email Friday January 20-24, 2020



Dear families,

### **Upcoming Events: Important Dates to mark in your calendar**

- Registration for September is Open
- Wadoka Returns January 27<sup>th</sup>
- **P.A. Day- January 31<sup>th</sup>**
- Author Visit in Library, February 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The Lions International Reading Action Program for K-3 is February 6<sup>th</sup>

Friday  
January 31, 2020  
P.A. Day

### **A Message from Our Library**

Meadowbrook Public School Library will be hosting another exciting author visit! On Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian author and illustrator Werner Zimmermann will be visiting students in kindergarten - grade 3. Thank you to Parent Council for helping to fund this wonderful opportunity. We have many of his books available to borrow from the library. Come and see the display set up.

### **Lunar New Year**

Lunar New Year is a cultural and religious celebration for many Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese communities. Lunar New Year is a Diamond Day Internally scheduled events such as field trips, school concerts, conferences, meetings, workshops, other professional events, co-curricular activities, and exams/tests shall not be scheduled on these dates. Refer to Scheduling of Events on Faith Days for further information. Many rituals are associated with this festive occasion. They include cleaning house, paying off debts, settling old arguments, and other means of making a "fresh start." To celebrate, people may light firecrackers, hang poetry, enjoy a family feast (oranges and apples are considered lucky fruits), exchange gifts (adults may give children laisee, red envelopes filled with money), and buy new clothes or new shoes. Schools will acknowledge this occasion through various activities that promote sharing and understanding. We wish all

staff, students and community celebrating Lunar New Year a happy and joyful celebration in the company of family and friends. For further information, please email Inclusive School and Community Services (ISCS): [iscs@yrdsb.ca](mailto:iscs@yrdsb.ca)



Dear Parents / Guardians

I personally would like to take this opportunity to thank our office, caretaking, support and teaching staff for their wonderful support over the last few months and making my stay truly wonderful. One measure of a great school is compassion and professionalism of its staff and in these terms Meadowbrook is indeed a great school. In addition it has been my pleasure to work with the parents and students of Meadowbrook P.S. I have enjoyed my interactions with you and will miss the students. I wish to all a very successful conclusion to the school year and I hope to come back for a visit soon.

Best wishes,

Robert Sandiford

Robert Sandiford

ROC Principal

Meadowbrook P.S.

905-895-3081

CourageFairnessHonestyInitiativeOptimismPerseveranceRespectResponsibilityIntegrityEmpathy

**KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION– Starts-Friday, January 17th, 2020 at 9:00am.m.**

Kindergarten registration has commenced for the 2020-21 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: [www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca). Children who turn four or five years old during 2020, 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 your local school.

If you have a child who will be registering for **Kindergarten in the fall of 2020**, please make sure you have completed the below form and return it to the school as soon as possible. Upon receipt we will send home a registration package, along with the dates and requirements for registration days. All children who were born on or before December 31st, **2016** are eligible to attend **Junior Kindergarten** beginning September 2020. We ask that you inform any friends or neighbours that do not presently have children attending Meadowbrook Public School and do have an eligible aged child. Please pass this form on to them where possible, or have them call the school.

**JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION starts early in the new year**

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Year      Month      Day

Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Parent  
(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please suggest a Meadowbrook P. S. student who could deliver a registration package to you.\*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

A full registration package will be sent home in mid-December upon receipt of this form. Please bring it with you when you come to register.

At the time of registration, a parent must provide

- ☐ Birth Certificate
- ☐ Proof of Residency i.e. current Municipal Tax Bill, Offer of Purchase or Rental Agreement.

Note: Students new to Ontario must first make an appointment to visit the Boards Reception Centre before registering at our school. Please call them at: 905-479-0546



# UN General Assembly proclaims 24 January International Day of Education

05 December 2018



On 3 December 2018, the United Nations General Assembly adopted with consensus a resolution proclaiming 24 January as International Day of Education, in celebration of the role of education for peace and development.

As the world education community gathered in Brussels for the [Global Education Meeting](#), the UN General Assembly voiced a strong message recognizing the foundational role of education for peace and development.

The adoption of the resolution 73/25 “International Day of Education”, co-authored by Nigeria and 58 other Member States, demonstrated the unwavering political will to support transformative actions for inclusive, equitable and quality education for all.

By doing so, the international community reiterated that education plays a key role in building sustainable and resilient societies, and contributes to the achievement of all other Sustainable Development Goals as it dedicated a special day to celebrate education worldwide.

With a view to enhance international cooperation in supporting the efforts towards the realization of Sustainable Development Goal 4, the resolution called on all stakeholders including Member States, organizations of the UN system, and civil society, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, the private sector, individuals and other relevant stakeholders to observe the International Day of Education.

UNESCO, as the specialized United Nations agency for education, will facilitate the annual observance of the Day in close collaboration with main education actors.

Introducing the resolution to the General Assembly, H.E. Tijjani Muhammad Bande, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations, underscored that proclamation of January 24 as the International Day of Education is an important step in order to promote education as a critical aspect of sustainable development. He emphasized that education is not only a human right, but a path for sustainable development.

Prior to adoption of the resolution, on 30 November 2018, the Permanent Missions of Ireland, Nigeria, Singapore and the State of Qatar, together with UNESCO, UNICEF and UN Women organized a side-event of to create awareness and build momentum for the adoption of the resolution. The high-level meeting brought together distinguished ambassadors, policy-makers, representatives of diplomatic community and UN system, civil society and private sector.

Ms Marie Paule Roudil, Director of UNESCO New York Office, stressed that education is not only a key goal on its own in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development but the one goal that gives people the means to realize it. "Gaining the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to put sustainable development into practice and craft innovative solutions is crucial for global goals", she said.

She also outlined the contribution of education to poverty eradication, improving health outcomes, promoting gender equality, environmental sustainability and building peaceful and resilient societies, while sharing the findings of the latest [Global Education Monitoring Report "Building bridges, not walls"](#).

Dear families,

As some of you may be aware, there has been a strong media focus on a novel coronavirus, which is reported to have originated in Wuhan, China. Some families have asked questions about how our schools and our region are dealing with these reports.

Our school board has a close working relationship with York Region Community Health Services and takes advice regarding public health matters from them. Attached you will find a fact sheet released by Community Health Services for your information. Community and Health Services have established a website where you can find the attached and updated information as it becomes available: [York.ca/coronavirus](http://York.ca/coronavirus).

Please be assured student and staff safety is our priority and we will continue to provide you with information as requested by Community and Health Services. At this time, there is no cause for concern or need to take additional measures, however, we appreciate your support in reinforcing the importance of regular hand washing and staying home if feeling unwell.

Sincerely,  
Robert Sandiford  
Principal

## **NOVEL CORONAVIRUS - FAQ**

### **What is coronavirus?**

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are known to cause illness ranging from the simple common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). We see many different types of coronaviruses here in York Region, Ontario and Canada.

### **What is novel coronavirus?**

The type of coronavirus found in Wuhan, China is a new (novel) strain, and not found here in Canada. Information about its ability to spread from person to person and the seriousness of this infection are still emerging.

### **What are the symptoms associated with this illness?**

Common symptoms of coronaviruses vary based on the type of coronavirus, but can often include symptoms like fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat and headache.

So far, authorities are reporting that the most common symptoms of the novel coronavirus include: fever, new or worsening cough or shortness of breath.

### **How are coronaviruses spread?**

**Known Coronaviruses:** These types of coronaviruses are responsible for causing the common cold and can spread from person to person, usually after close contact with an infected person (e.g., in a household, workplace or health care setting) through respiratory secretions (e.g., a runny nose or saliva) and droplets present in the air from coughing or sneezing; or through touching surfaces contaminated with respiratory droplets, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands.

**Novel Coronavirus:** As this is a new disease, much about it is still unknown. While there is evidence of some person-to-person transmission, it is yet to be confirmed how easily the disease spreads from person-to-person; for example if the spread is limited to only close or prolonged contact with a case.

### **What do we know so far?**

As seen in recent media reports, on December 31, 2019, Chinese authorities reported an outbreak of a novel coronavirus originally associated with a local live seafood market in Wuhan, China involving many cases, as well as some deaths. New information on the number of cases and deaths continues to be received on an almost daily basis.

The majority of cases are reporting mild illness, with a small subset of people reporting more serious illness.

### **Are there any Canadian cases of novel coronavirus?**

The disease is called a novel coronavirus because it is a new type of coronavirus that has not been reported before. Currently, experts believe that the new virus was introduced to humans from an animal source.

The majority of cases of the novel coronavirus are in Wuhan, China. Some cases are being reported in other parts of China, Thailand, South Korea, Japan and the USA, many of which seem to be related to the original outbreak in Wuhan.

There have been no confirmed cases in Canada.

At this time, the risk to York Region residents is low.

### **What should I be doing to protect myself, family and the community?**

All York Region residents, regardless of who you are, can take the following steps to protect themselves not only from new and emerging diseases but also from the common cold and the flu (which are on the rise at this time of year):

- ☐ Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands
- ☐ Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly, including between your fingers, under your fingernails and your wrists. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- ☐ Cover your cough or sneeze using a tissue or into your elbow or sleeve, being sure to cover your mouth. Put used tissue in the garbage and wash your hands after or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- ☐ If you are sick, stay home from work or school until your symptoms resolve

□ Avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as coughing and sneezing

At this time, no specific or different action needs to be taken by the public against novel coronavirus.

If you are feeling ill and wish to seek medical attention, try to call in advance to let them know of your symptoms and any recent travel to the affected areas.

**If I work at a school or at a child care centre, how can I protect myself and/or my students?**

Please follow the steps as outlined above. No additional precautions need to be taken at this point.

**Are there any travel advisories?**

At the moment, there is no travel advisory for Wuhan, China, but if you are going to Wuhan specifically, some advice has been provided by the Public Health Agency of Canada which you can access at this site: <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories/pneumonia-china>.

**What is York Region Public Health doing?**

York Region Public Health is closely monitoring the outbreak of viral pneumonia in Central China and working closely with the Ontario's Ministry of Health to be aware of the situation and receives regular updates from the Ministry as the situation in China evolves.

York Region Public Health has also been working closely with our hospitals and community health care providers to keep them informed on the evolving situation. Physicians, hospitals and other health care facilities in York Region are aware to report a suspected or confirmed case of novel coronavirus, so we can take action to follow-up with close contacts to prevent and control further transmission.

**Who can I contact if I require further information?**

If you have additional questions, please contact Health Connection, Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 1-800-361-5653 (1-866-512-6228 for the deaf or hard of hearing)