



Weekly Newsletter Email

Friday November 25 – 29, 2019



Hello Meadowbrook Families,

Observances and Celebrations in December

December is a very busy month when it comes to different celebrations, as noted in board's Holiday and Observances Calendar. This is the list and description of this month's events.



CHRISTIANITY

December 1 ♦ First Sunday of Advent begins the period of preparation for Christmas. In homes and Churches, Christians set out special candle holders or Advent wreaths (Western).

December 25 ♦ Christmas (Western calendar) celebrates the birth of Jesus about 2000 years ago in Bethlehem. Christians believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the son of God, and accept him as their Saviour and Lord. In many families, Christmas Eve is celebrated with big dinners, visiting and carol-singing, often followed by midnight church services.

ISLAM

December 13 ♦ Birthday of Aga Khan (Ismaili)

December 13 ♦ Marks the birthday of His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan, the 49th hereditary Imamof-the-Time descended from the progeny of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). It is referred to as Salgirah Khushiali and is a celebratory occasion for Ismaili Muslims to express love, loyalty and devotion to their Imam.

JAINISM

December 8 ♦ Maun Agiyaras is a day of fasting, silence and meditation.

JUDAISM

Dec. 23 – 30 ♦ Chanukah (Festival of Lights) celebrates religious freedom by commemorating the victory of the Jews over Antiochus who tried to outlaw the practice of Judaism. Starting on the evening of December 12, candles are lit in increasing numbers for eight nights in a "Chanukiah" which is a special candelabrum containing nine candles.

KWANZAA

Dec. 26 - Jan. 1 ♦ Kwanzaa named after the Swahili word for "first fruits" is a seven day cultural celebration initiated by African Americans starting on December 26th. Each day a candle is lit and placed in a seven cup candelabrum called a kinara that sits on a straw mat adorned with fruit and vegetables. The participants discuss the principles or Nguzo Saba of Kwanzaa: unity, self-determination, collective responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith. On the final night of the celebration, friends and relatives gather for a feast known as Karamu.

WICCA

December 22 ♦ Yule In most traditions, Yule is the Sabbat that begins the Wiccan Year. This is the Winter Solstice—the shortest day and longest night we will experience in the Northern Hemisphere.

ZOROASTRIANISM

December 26 ♦ Death of Prophet Zarathushtra who was the founder of the Zoroastrian faith. His dates are uncertain but Westerners believe he lived in the first or the second millennium B.C.E.

SNOWBALLING

With the winter season upon us, people of all ages are looking forward to the joys of snow. Most children rank snowballing high on the list of fun winter activities. We have instructed all of our students that for **SAFETY REASONS SNOWBALLING IS FORBIDDEN**.

There may be times where a teacher may supervise a snow activity such as snow/ice sculpture building if conditions are appropriate; however, with the exception of these activities, and the making of snowmen or snow forts, **SNOW MUST STAY OUT OF HANDS AND ON THE GROUND** at all times.

Students are aware of the following consequences:

- **1st incident:** a warning with letter home and loss of recess privileges (1 day);
- **2nd incident:** a call home and/or letter with loss of recess privileges (up to 1 week);
- **3rd or repeated incident:** may result in suspension; and
- Injury to a student or flagrant disrespect to supervisors could result in a suspension even for the first incident.



We can see clearly now, the storm has gone...



On a snow day –

Buses are cancelled, but the school is open.



If the conditions of the roads force cancellation of bus service, local radio stations will be informed as early as possible and will broadcast this information to the community. When the buses are cancelled in the morning, and the schools are still open, parents who choose to send their children to school should be aware that:

- **field trips will also be cancelled**
- **any special day (Pajama Day) will be cancelled**
- **any planned lunches (pizza day) will be cancelled**
- **it is the responsibility of parents to ensure the safe arrival and pick up of their children**
- **no a.m. bussing means no p.m. bussing**
- **depending on availability of staff, several classes may be combined and students will be offered a highly modified program**
- **students may not be with their own teachers or grade level**



If your child is not coming to school due to bad weather, please call the school, (905) 895-3081, email either lauren.malcolm@yrdsb.ca and/or shannon.dollery@yrdsb.ca and/or meadowbrook.ps@yrdsb.ca or report your child(ren)'s absence on Edsby. The Safe School Arrival Program, all students have to be accounted for each day. If we cannot reach that person, **we are obligated to contact the police**. Once students arrive, they are expected to stay. **Students are not allowed to come to the office and use the phone** - a few hundred kids, 3 phone lines, 1 secretary (*who are using all the phone lines to check on the absences*) creates a great deal of confusion in the office. You can; however, make arrangements ahead of time to pick up your child at lunch. It should also be noted that on heavy snow days if the buses are running, the buses are likely to be 10-15 minutes later than usual. If your child is waiting longer than 20 minutes in the morning, please call directly to your child's bus company or check our school website and select the bussing icon to schoolbuscity.com.

Dress for the weather – bus cancellation does not mean automatic indoor recesses or early entry into the school.

French Immersion Information Evening and Registration

French Immersion Information night will be held at Prince Charles PS on January 16, 2020 at 7:00 pm. Registration will begin on January 17, 2020.

Bullying

Q. What is bullying?

A. Bullying behaviour involves a power imbalance, e.g. size, number of students, status, etc. There is intent to cause distress. The victim experiences distress. Without intervention, the bullying behaviour is repeated. Bullying is often hidden from adults. Victims often do not report because of embarrassment, fear of reprisal, or reluctance to be considered a "tattletale".

Q. What are the different types of bullying behaviour?

A. DIRECT:

1. Verbal (insults, teasing)
2. Physical (pushing, shoving, assault)
3. Psychological (threats, intimidation, extortion)

INDIRECT

1. Exclusion, shunning
2. Gossip and rumors
3. Relational aggression (telling someone not to be friends with another student) Bullies come in all shapes and sizes. Bullying is not about anger, or even about conflict. It's about contempt – a powerful feeling of dislike toward someone considered to be worthless, inferior or undeserving of respect.

Seven Steps to Stop Bullying

1. Discipline (including the three R's: restitution, resolution, reconciliation)
2. Create opportunities to "do good"
3. Nurture empathy
4. Teach friendship skills
5. Closely monitor TV viewing, video games and computer activities
6. Engage in more constructive, entertaining, energizing activities
7. Teach ways to "will good"

Excerpts from "The Bully, The Bullied, and the Bystander", Barbara Colorosso

www.kidsareworthit.com

Winter sun safety

It's true. The winter sun contains UV rays and sunburns do occur, even though it is cold outside.

Winter Sun Facts

- Snow reflects up to 80 per cent of UV rays, which bounce off the ground, so sunburns can occur in unusual areas (e.g., under the chin)
- Sports at higher altitudes increase the risk of serious sunburn, as there is less atmosphere to block the sun's rays
- "Snow blindness" can occur if your eyes are unprotected - eyes can temporarily feel gritty and watery

Protect Yourself:

- **Cover up!** When outside, wear protective clothing and a hat
- Wear sunglasses with 100 per cent UVA and UVB protection. Close-fitting, wrap-around styles can offer greater protection
- Use a sunscreen and lip balm SPF 30 or higher
- Remember to apply sunscreen 15 to 30 minutes before going outdoors and reapply every two hours

For health-related information call York Region Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653, TTY 1-866-252-9933 or visit www.york.ca/healthyschools



WINTER ACTIVITIES FOR YOUR FAMILY

Active living is alive and well all year round. Snow and cold weather provide opportunities for a wide range of fun and inexpensive activities for everyone. With proper clothing, outdoor activities can be very enjoyable.

Try adapting popular summer activities into winter activities. Need some ideas?

- Ice soccer is like soccer, only played in the snow
- Snow pitch is like baseball
- Snow volleyball
- Ice bowling – freeze water-filled plastic milk jugs or pop bottles and use them as bowling pins
- Use your creativity and build a huge snowman or ice sculpture
- Take a walk and enjoy nature

Tips for safe winter fun:

Wear layers to stay safe from the cold. Layers of loose fitting clothing trap air and provide good insulation. A hat, scarf and warm mitts or gloves will keep extremities warm. Wear bright coloured clothing when outdoors so you are visible to traffic during the day. At night, wearing reflective material or products, will increase safety. Be aware that winter weather and clothing can distort sounds. Play in a safe area. Do not let your child play in snow banks by roads. Snowplows may not be able to see your child. Inner tubes, plastic discs and other makeshift sliders are not recommended, as they are not safe and may lead to injury. Wear a CSA approved helmet when tobogganing, skiing, snowboarding, skating or playing impact sports. White spots on your cheeks, feet or hands could be frostbite. Come in from the cold immediately.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION– Starts-> Friday, January 17th,2020

9:00 a.m.

Kindergarten registration will commence on January 17, 2020 for the 2020-21 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: 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 Bogart 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 original copies:

- ☐ Birth Certificate and/or Passport
- ☐ Proof of Residency: (i.e., Agreement of Purchase and Sale, or Rental Agreement or Property Tax Bill)
- ☐ Proof of Residency: (i.e., Utility Bill or Bank Statement)

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

Upcoming Events: Important Dates to mark in your calendar

- December 2 - School Council Meeting 6:30-8pm
- December 4- Dental Screening for JK, SK, and Gr.2
- December 5- Zucca's Hot Lunch
- December 6- Popcorn Sales \$2.00
- December 12- Winter Concert
- December 16-20th- Spirit Week
- December 16- Kwanzaa Colour Day (wear red, green and black)
- December 17- Holiday Hat and Antler Day
- December 19- Zucca's Hot Lunch
- - Chanukah Colour Day
- December 20- Popcorn Sales \$2.00
 -Holiday Sweater Day
- December 23- January 3- Winter Break

Wadoka

Wadoka program 'lunchtime' program will end on December 6th 2019 and begin again on January 13th 2020

Inside Shoes



Please consider footwear that can be reserved for indoor wear only (shoes or slippers). This will help keep feet dry and warm and the classrooms clean as we approach the winter season.

Bob Sandiford

ROC Principal
Meadowbrook Public School

Office: (905) 895-3081



Jennifer May

Vice Principal
Meadowbrook Public School