# MORAINE HILLS HIGHLIGHTS

Moraine Hills Public School (905) 292-0530 The York Region District School Board moraine.hills.ps@yrdsb.ca VOLUME 6, ISSUE 3

FEBRUARY 2022

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### **Upcoming Events:**

February 4th

• P.A. Day

February 7th

School Council Meeting

February 23rd—25th

- Report Cards
- Mrs. Deborah Snow Principal
- Mrs. Caroline Dawn Vice-Principal
- Mrs. Roula DiGiacinto Mrs. Sasthia James Mrs. Christina Serino Office Administrative Assistants
- Mr. Erik Khilji
   Superintendent of
   Schools
   (905)884-4477
- Mr. Simon Cui Trustee (905) 727– 0022 Ext. 2217
- Mrs. D. Sehgal Chair Moraine Hills P.S. School Council

### **REMINDER:**

### **DAILY SCREENING REQUIREMENT**

It is essential that each child is screened daily and the confirmation form is completed using the following links *before coming to school everyday:* 

Self-Screening Tool: https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/

Confirmation form: Elementary School Confirmation Form

Please complete the screening and confirmation form every morning!



### HYBRID MODEL

Many of our families have elected to have their children learn on-line because of COVID. Almost all of our classes are operating with both remote and face to face students.

To maintain as much consistency as possible and to minimize disruptions, it is essential that students attend according to their selected model.

If face-to-face students need to switch to on-line for a temporary period as they isolate due to close contact, it is important that they notify our office of the need to change.

Please note, students may not switch to on-line for reasons that are not COVID related.

### VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

Due to COVID Restrictions and under the direction of *York Region Public Health*, we are limiting visitors to the school.

Please ensure that your children bring their lunches and snacks to school in the morning because we cannot accept drop-offs. Similarly, we will not accept deliveries from services such as Uber Eats.

If you would like your child to go home for lunch, they need to do so consistently and to stay away for the full lunch hour. This is to reduce traffic into and out of the school and to ensure safety as it is important that we know the whereabouts of all our students in the event of an emergency

If you would like to get in touch with a staff member, please phone us and arrange a virtual meeting or a meeting via telephone call.

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# PARKING LOT SAFETY

Please note, the school parking lot is closed to traffic other than school transit vehicles during peak pedestrian times: 8:10—8:30 a.m. and 2:45—3:05 p.m.

If you are in the parking lot when the buses arrive, you must wait until they exit the loop. Vehicles may not pass the busses in the bus loop.

If you are dropping off or picking up your child, please do so at a nearby location in the neighbourhood and walk them the rest of the way if necessary. Parking is allowed on some streets, please check signage.

Please drive carefully in the school zone. It is imperative that you come to a full stop at the stop sign in front of the school. Please remember that making a U turn on the street in front of the school is illegal and very dangerous.

York Regional Police are concerned with the safety of school zones and will be increasing their presence during peak hours, issuing tickets to those who are not adhering to the law.

# DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

As you know, we have been experiencing some very cold weather. It is important that students come to school dressed appropriately. Though we monitor the weather closely on very cold days and we sometimes have to have indoor recesses, we often try to have the students go out for fresh air and activity, even if it is for a shortened period of time. It is very important that students come to school with hats, mittens, boots and scarves on the cold days. For the wet days, please send a set of dry clothes to school. It is particularly important that each student has an extra pair of dry socks. With intermittent cold weather followed by thawing, the playing field can be very wet and muddy.

It is also very important that students have a pair of indoor shoes. In the event that the fire alarm rings, the students must exit the building as quickly as possible. Fire regulations are clear: we cannot stop to put on boots or outdoor shoes. Also, please note that the expectation is that students who are well enough to be at school are well enough to go out for recess. With the exception of healing broken bones and concussions, we do require that all students go outside with their schoolmates.



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# **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Friday, February 4th is a P.A. Day.

There will be no school for students.

Our next Virtual School Council Meeting will take place on

February 7th at 6:45 p.m. If you would like a link to the meeting, please email Mrs. Snow at deborah.snow@yrdsb.ca

Report Cards will be distributed electronically the week of February 21st—25th



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# **Message from Our Trustee**

Dear Families,

Thank you for your patience and support as schools closed to students and we moved to remote learning in January for two weeks after the winter break, following direction from the Government of Ontario.

It has been almost two years since the pandemic was declared and schools closed to students for the first time. Since then, we have all experienced significant changes and challenges in the way we live, work and learn. As a school board, we continue to be guided by public health advice and guidelines, our <u>values</u> as an organization and the goals set out in our <u>Multi-Year Strategic Plan</u>, all of which centre the well-being, learning and achievement of our students. We remain committed to sharing information with you as it becomes available. We also continue to update the Board website with resources and information, at <u>www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening</u>.

On the website, you can also find information about the <u>Board of Trustees</u>, including more about my role as your trustee, committee meeting dates, and information about public participation and how you can attend public board meetings. Following <u>a review</u> completed earlier this year, trustees approved some changes to <u>committee structures</u> and <u>delegation process</u> to create a stronger governance model. As a Board, we are committed to good governance, serving the needs of our community and upholding the values of York Region District School Board.

With winter well underway, I want to remind families that this year <u>schools will close when an inclement weather day is declared</u>. This is as a result of the pandemic and the importance of adhering to public health guidelines.

There is much to look forward to in the months ahead.

This month, students in Grades 5 to 11 will have an opportunity to vote for the students who will represent their voices next school year, during the **student trustee elections**. Student trustees play an important role in our system, including participating in board and committee meeting discussions. The election process also gives students an opportunity to learn more about and participate in the voting process. Learn more at <a href="https://www.yrdsb.ca/studenttrustees">www.yrdsb.ca/studenttrustees</a>.

Throughout February, we recognize **Black History Month**. In addition to recognizing the contributions of Black Canadians throughout history, we are continuing to Celebrate Black Excellence in our own community. I encourage you to <u>read or watch the stories of some of the many outstanding individuals in York Region, or nominate someone</u>. You may also be interested in some of the episodes available on our <u>TuneIn YRDSB podcast</u>, exploring Black History Month and beyond.

Later in February, our schools will become a sea of pink as we acknowledge **Pink Shirt Day** and stand together against bullying. Learn more about our work to <u>prevent and address bullying</u> and create <u>equitable and inclusive learning environments</u>.

Family Day and March Break are also approaching, and I wish you and your families a healthy, restful and enjoyable break

As we move closer to the spring and summer months, many families who have children graduating this year are beginning to wonder what **graduation ceremonies** will look like in June. We all want to be able to celebrate this important milestone with our graduating students in person. It is a special occasion, recognizing their years of achievement and hard work. We recognize that it has been deeply disappointing to students, families and staff that we have not been able to hold in-person ceremonies as we have done in the past, as we adhere to health and safety guidelines. School board staff continue to meet regularly with public health and to review provincial guidelines, and as more information becomes available, we will continue to provide you with updates.

In closing, I want to acknowledge that as an education community, although we have faced many challenges and changes in the past few years, we have also seen our community come together in many ways to support our students and one another. I am proud to be part of this community and I want to thank our students, families and staff for the effort and care they have demonstrated.

Simon Cui

Trustee, Richmond Hill Wards 1, 2 and 4

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YORK REGION ALLIANCE OF AFRICAN CANADIAN COMMUNITIES
PRESENTS



# 5th Annual

# Black History Month Event

Date: February 19, 2022

Black Health, Well-Being, and Resilience through Ubuntu – I am because we are!

Time: 11am - 2pm

Keynote Speaker: Ms. Ginelle Skerritt



First Black CEO of YRCAS, public speaker, published author, dedicated to principles of diversity, inclusion, positive identity and social justice.

### **Breakout Sessions / Entertainment**

Mental and Physical Health Resilience
Resilience through Community
Financial Resilience
Online Bullying - Social Media Resilience
Drumming, Poetry, and More

**O** Venue: Virtual Event

Registration at: YRAACCBHM2022.eventbrite.ca

For more information: (647) 280 - 9879 Info@yorkregionaacc.ca



www.yorkregionaacc.ca/events for more details.