



THE EDUCATION CENTRE - AURORA

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September 5, 2018

Dear Families,

We wish to take this opportunity to welcome our new and returning families. We hope that everyone is having a great start to the school year.

This time of year brings with it new beginnings, new routines and new opportunities for growth. As we kick off the 2018-19 school year, we are excited to share with you information regarding our Board's new [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#).

Last year, we held Town Hall meetings throughout York Region. Over 2,000 responses were collected from students, families, staff and community members. Thank you to everyone who provided valuable insights and feedback that helped inform the new direction of our Board.

Based on your responses, the Board of Trustees developed a new Multi-Year Strategic Plan with four main priorities. The four priorities are:

- **Foster Well-Being and Mental Health**
 - We create safe, healthy and inclusive learning and working environments.
- **Champion Equity and Inclusivity**
 - We develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes to remove barriers in support of all learners.
- **Build Collaborative Relationships**
 - We build trusting relationships based on respectful and responsive communication.
- **Empower Ethical Leadership**
 - We lead ethically by focusing on students and upholding our values.

These four priorities are designed to help all of our students succeed this upcoming year and enrich their learning experiences.

As parents, and our most important partners in education, we hope that you will join us in our work to support all students in reaching their full potential.

All the best for 2018-19!

Sincerely,

Louise Sirisko
Director of Education

Corrie McBain
Chair of the Board

Grade 7 teacher: Mr. Unitas will be the homeroom teacher for 7A while Mrs. Garner is on Maternity Leave for the year.

Agendas: agendas are available for purchase on school cash online for \$5.25. If parents new to the school have not signed up for School Cash online, please contact the office and we will send home instructions on how to sign up. All school activities and purchases will be done through there.

Knives: Please do not send knives to school with your child to cut their lunch or spread anything on their lunch. Knives (even plastic) are not permitted at school.

Busing

Students are not allowed to ride other student's buses. Please do not tell your child to do this.

Girl Talk Group: Mrs. Hatcher and Mrs. Carpenter will be starting a Girl Talk group during some lunch hours. This will be for grade 7 and 8 girls. All girls are welcome. Discussions will be focused around issues that adolescent girls struggle, with such as navigating social issues, healthy body image etc. Please watch for the permission form to come home.

Walking or Cycling to School

As we start the 2018-2019 school year, we would like to remind and encourage families to consider **walking or cycling with children to and from school**. There are many benefits to walking and cycling to school. It:

Improves student academic performance by making children more alert and better prepared to learn.

Contributes to the daily goal of 60 minutes of moderate or vigorous activity for children, improving their health and overall fitness.

Reduces traffic congestion and improves safety for everyone in school zones.

Promotes life-long habits that foster independence and active lifestyles, preparing children for their future.

For those who can't walk or cycle to school every day, choosing active travel once, twice or a few days a week can still provide benefits. You can also consider parking a block away from the school and walking the rest of the way. Include active travel as part of your daily routine!

Upcoming Dates:

Sept. 24 - PA Day

Sept. 27 - Meet the Teacher Night

Oct. 8 - No School - Thanksgiving

Oct. 9 - Area Cross Country

Oct. 10 - Picture day

Oct. 19 - Bus safety presentations

