

School Safety

Lockdown drills: During the school year, we conduct a minimum of two lockdown drills to prepare students for the unfortunate situations that arise from strangers or threats in and around the school. During this time, students and staff remain in their locked classroom out of site of potential threat makers.

Fire drills: We conduct a minimum of 6 fire drills each year, three in the fall and 3 in the spring. During the drills, we evacuate the school and prepare for unforeseen circumstances that may arise. We are able to evacuate a school of almost 400 and have all students accounted for in approximately 3 minutes.

Hold and Secure Drills: When there is a threat in the community or extreme weather that prevents us from going outside, we announce hold and secure. During a hold and secure, we conduct business as usual but we don't go outside.

Sign in Procedures in the office: When anyone comes into the school for any reason, they must come into the main office. If they have an appointment with a staff member, they sign in and get a visitors pass and we notify the staff member that they are here. If you are picking up your child, we ask you to sign out your child but remain at the office and your child will come to the office to meet you. Schools in York Region do not allow parents or guardians to walk into the school during school hours without following this procedure. Although you may not be a stranger to some, you are a stranger to others. For the safety of all children, this procedure must be followed at all times. If we do see an unfamiliar adult without a visitors pass, staff have been instructed to approach them and ask them to return to the office.

We also ask that you not enter the school yard during school hours. If you are here for an athletic event or a scheduled visit with a staff member, we follow the same procedures of signing in at the office.

Partnership with York Regional Police: We are lucky to have a strong partnership with the York Regional Police both at the board level and the school level. Throughout the year, police officers will come to the school to do the VIP program (Values, Influences, and Peers), Healthy Relationships Talks, Primary Traveler Program, as well as other programs and topics of discussion that we collaboratively decide need to be addressed.

We also have a Police and School Board Protocol. The Protocol is designed to encourage, enable and maintain a positive relationship between York Regional Police officers in their work with school administrators, staff, students, parents, and members of the school community. It establishes guidelines for these various relationships. This protocol is developed with the understanding that cooperative involvement, prevention and intervention will facilitate compliance with the law. The development of positive attitudes and acceptable student behaviour will support a learning environment that is safe, nurturing, positive and respectful. This applies to all partners in the process, with the end goal to support caring and safe schools.

It's time to remind children about being safe in our community.

This is a good time for parents to learn about and review ways to protect their children from potential dangers.

Here's what children need to know:

Their name, age, telephone number, address, city and province. This can be done through rhyme or song.

How to contact their parents at any time, by memorizing cell or work numbers.

How and under what circumstances to call 911.

To never approach or enter a stranger's vehicle. A responsible adult would never ask a child for directions or any other question for that matter.

Make sure they know they have a right to say "no" to an adult, especially when the adult is asking them to do something they have been taught is wrong or feels uncomfortable.

Reminding children of this right is important because children are taught from a young age to respect adults.

To always tell parents where they will be and to never enter someone's home without their parent's permission.

If home alone, never admit it when answering the phone. Never answer a knock at the door or speak through it. Adults can be very persuasive. Teach your child to call you if there is a knock at the door and if they fear for their safety, teach them to call 911. Make sure they know that police officers are there to help them and would not get mad if it were a false alarm.

If they think they are being followed or are in danger they should run home or to a public place. If someone grabs them, they should try to get away, yelling and screaming while doing so.

It is important to play in safe areas, never take shortcuts and stick with a buddy whenever possible.

It is never too early or too late to teach children the importance of personal safety. Common sense, communication and consistency are the keys. Remind children to alert a responsible adult if something strange happens that makes them feel uncomfortable. Remember, crime prevention is everyone's responsibility.

For more information on this subject, contact the York Regional Police Community Services Bureau at 1-866-876-5423, ext. 7980, or by e-mail at info@police.york.on.ca, or visit www.police.york.on.ca.

Picture Day

"Hello parents!

Remember, Picture Day is coming on Wednesday, October 10

Make it simple by ordering your portraits online, using your Picture Day ID and child's first name to get started. If you prefer to order on paper, we will be sending an order form home as well.

Remember to smile and have fun!"

What's Happening at MAPS? Currently, the following activities are taking place:

- Tech crew
- Knitting club
- Choir
- Junior boys' volleyball tryouts
- Intermediate Boys' Volleyball

- Intermediate Girls' Volleyball
- Gr. 7 and 8 student council
- Gr. 7 Girl talk group and Gr. 8 Girl talk group
- Junior Boys' recess social skills recess games group
- Flag football
- Social Justice Club
- Eco Club
- Friends of the Library
- Cross Country

Have a Great Long Weekend!

Please see October Calendar below...

Upcoming Dates:

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 Primary Traveler Program gr. 5 Flag Football	2 Gr. 7 Girl talk group Flag Football	3 Flag Football	4 Senior Girls' Volleyball vs Wendat at MAPS Gr. 8 Girl talk group Flag Football	5 Junior Achievement 8B Flag Football	6
7	8 Thanksgiving No School	9 Gr. 7 Girl talk group Area Cross Country at George Richardson Park Flag Football	10 Photo Day Zucca Lunch Tech Crew Flag Football	11 Senior Girls' Volleyball vs Wendat at Wendat Gr. 8 Girl talk group Flag Football	12 Cross Country Rain date Choir Flag Football	13
14	15 Jr. Boys Volleyball	16 Gr. 7 Girl talk group Regional Cross Country at the ROC VIP grade 6 Flag Football	17 Fundraiser Vegetable pick up after school Junior Boys Recess club Flag Football Tech Crew	18 Gr. 8 Girl talk group Flag Football Milk Sales start Jr. Boys Volleyball	19 Bus Evacuation Training Regional Cross Country Rain Date Pizza Lunch Flag Football Choir I	20
21	22 PA Day No School	23 Sibbald's point gr. 4 Intermediate boys volleyball at Wendat PS School Council meeting VIP grade 6 Gr. 7 Girl talk group Flag Football	24 Sibbald's point gr. 4 Immunization Day Junior Boys Recess club Tech Crew Flag Football	25 Sibbald's point gr. 7 Gr. 8 Girl talk group Jr. Boys Volleyball Flag Football	26 Sibbald's point gr. 7 Pizza lunch Choir Flag Football	27
28	29 Jr. Boys Volleyball Flag Football	30 VIP grade 6 Gr. 7 Girl talk group Flag Football	31 Hallowe'en Junior Boys Recess club Tech Crew Flag Football			

