

# Northern Highlights



## Community Update

Week of September 4th, 2022

School Address

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Phone Number

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Vice Principal: Saira Phatale

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Diane O'Reilly

Superintendent: Deborah Joyce

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DATE	ACTIVITIES	UPCOMING
Monday Sept. 4th Day 0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Labour Day - No School Today</li> </ul>	<p><i>Sept. 15th-17th -Rosh Hashanah</i>  <i>Sept. 22nd -PA Day</i>  <i>Sept. 24-25 -Yom Kippur</i>  <i>Oct. 9th -Thanksgiving</i>  <i>Oct. 20th -PA DAY</i></p>
Tuesday Sept. 5th Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>First Full Day of School for SK- Gr. 8 students</b></li> <li>Staggered Entry for JK Students 10:55 (A-K) or 1:35 (L-Z)</li> <li>Caring &amp; Safe Schools Presentations</li> </ul>	
Wednesday September 6th Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Kindergarten (JK/SK) students begin at 8:45 am and are dismissed at 3:15 pm</li> <li>Arbaeen - day of Ashura for Shia Muslims</li> </ul>	
Thursday September 7th Day 3		
Friday September 8th Day 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Caring &amp; Safe Schools presentations</li> </ul>	

### WELCOME BACK EVERYONE!

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to school for the 2023-24 school year! We hope you had a lovely summer and we look forward to another exciting school year. Please be sure to read our weekly newsletter, the Northern Highlights, for important information for the upcoming week, our memo goes out to our parent community on Friday afternoon. We wish all our students and families a safe and successful year of learning.

### \*INFORMATION & UPDATES\*

#### CLASS PLACEMENT AND FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL INFORMATION:

Parents will receive important email communication in the late afternoon of Friday September 1st, or over the weekend (It may take time for the Board's servers to process the emails from all of our schools). in regards to your child's class placement for the upcoming school year. Please note that a great deal of time and consideration goes into creating our classes. Your child(ren) has been carefully placed in a class that will meet their social, emotional and academic needs. Please look out for an email from the school as we know many children are waiting to get to know their classroom teacher. **Please note many families have been looking for this information on EDSBY which may or may not be correct.** If you do not receive this email please approach a staff member on the school yard on Tuesday as we will have master lists with us as well. Beginning on the first day of school students will receive information regarding their entry door and they can enter the school using their designated door throughout the year. Class instruction begins at 8:45am, if students are late and arrive at school after 8:45am they are asked to enter the school from the front door and check in at the office for a late slip.

### **KINDERGARTEN STAGGERED ENTRY:**

In order to ensure a successful transition back to school for our youngest learners we stagger kindergarten entry to school. Our Year 2 (SK) will begin school on the first day, Tuesday September 5th, for the whole day 8:45am-3:15pm. Bus service will be available for our SK students beginning the first day.

Our Year 1 (JK) students with last names beginning from A-K will come for a 100 minute block from 10:55 a.m. until 12:35 p.m on Tuesday September 5th, the first day of school. Students with last names beginning from K-Z will attend school on Tuesday September 5th in the afternoon beginning at 1:35 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Please make arrangements to pick up your child either at 12:25 or 3:00 p.m. Please note there will be no bus service for JK students on this day due to the half day schedule. All JK students will attend full days of school (8:45 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.) on Wednesday September 6th.

We look forward to seeing your smiling faces at the kindergarten gate very soon!

### **DAILY SCHEDULE:**

8:45-Entry Bell  
8:45 - 9:25 Period 1  
9:25-9:55 Period 2  
9:55-10:25 Period 3  
10:25-10:55 Recess  
10:55-11:35 Period 4  
11:35-12:05 Period 5  
12:05-12:35 Period 6  
12:35-1:35 Lunch  
1:35-2:15 Period 7  
2:15-2:45 Period 8  
2:45-3:15 Period 9  
3:15 Dismissal



### **EDSBY BOARD COMMUNICATION PLATFORM:**

Edsby is our communication platform. At Northern Lights PS, Edsby is used as an attendance reporting tool where parents can inform the school of their child's absences. Individual teachers may use Edsby to communicate with parents and send messages home.

For new students, including our Junior Kindergarten, families will be sent an invitation via email to join Edsby during the first week of school. Please look out for this email and register on Edsby as soon as possible so you will be able to receive important information from your child(ren)'s teacher and will also allow you to report your child's attendance, communicate with teachers and sign-up for Parent interviews in the fall.

### START-UP PACKAGE FORMS:

As in previous years, a start-up book of forms will be sent directly to families during the second week of school. These forms are to be submitted electronically, if you wish to have a paper copy please contact the office.

### MEDICAL PERIL/ALLERGIES:

Any families that have a child with a medical peril (e.g. anaphylactic allergy, asthma, epilepsy, diabetes) are asked to complete the appropriate form below and return it to the office as soon as possible.

- [Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan](#)
- [Asthma Health Care Plan](#)
- [Diabetes Health Care Plan](#)
- [Epilepsy Seizure Disorder Health Care Plan](#)



### LUNCH PERMISSION AND DROP-OFF:

If you would like your child to go home for lunch please remember to complete the electronic form that will be in the Start-Up School Package of forms. These forms will be sent to your email within the next two weeks.

### INDIGENOUS AND INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES:

The York Region District School Board offers language learning to elementary students in Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8 and language credit courses to secondary students in Grades 9 to 12. Elementary Language Classes are extra-curricular learning opportunities available in-person or remotely. Classes are 2.5 hours and take place once per week between Tuesday to Friday evenings (6:00 PM to 8:30 PM) or Saturday mornings (9:30 AM to 12:00 PM). Register by Monday, September 11, 2023 to attend the full language program in its entirety. Please For more information about the elementary program, visit the Indigenous Languages and international languages web page [LINK](#).

### ACTIVE AND SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL:

We encourage students and families that live in close proximity to Northern Lights to walk to and from school each day. Walking to school is a great opportunity to be physically active on a daily basis. It gives students a chance to spend time with their friends and get to know their neighbourhood and community. Engaging in light physical activity also enhances focus and engagement while learning at school. It also alleviates congestion in the parking lot and reduces early morning traffic.



## MESSAGE FROM OUR TRUSTEE:

September 2023

Dear families,

*It is my pleasure to welcome all new and returning families to school for the 2023-2024 school year. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and wish you a positive start to the new school year. I know it can be a time of transition for many, and am grateful for the dedication and professionalism of our school staff for all that they do to support students as they start the new school year, and create a warm, welcoming and inclusive environment in our schools.*

*The education of your children is a partnership, and we recognize that you are our most important partner when it comes to your child's education. As a family member, there are many ways you can engage in your child's learning, from speaking with your child about school and connecting with school staff to volunteering or becoming involved with the school council. You know your child best and we place great value on the relationship we have with families. I look forward to connecting with you throughout the school year.*

*As your school trustee, it is my role to advocate for quality public education in York Region, and to ensure that our students remain at the centre of all of our decision making. The Board of Trustees has many [responsibilities](#), including making [policy](#) and [budget](#) decisions, and communicating with the public. Please feel free to [contact me](#) if you have any questions or concerns, and I will continue to keep you updated throughout the year on what is happening in the board. You can also visit our [newsroom](#), listen to our [podcast](#) and connect with us on social media to stay up-to-date on what's happening in the board.*

*This year, we are pleased to welcome our [new Director of Education Bill Cober](#), who took on the role on August 1 this year. He brings nearly 30 years of experience in public education in York Region, a commitment to student achievement and well-being, and a strategic and collaborative approach.*

*Later in the year, we will be undertaking a comprehensive strategic plan review. One of our roles as a board is to set the [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#) that establishes our priorities and guides our direction as a school board. We will be reviewing that plan this year, and engaging with communities is a priority for us. Your input will be important and I look forward to sharing more information with you on this in the future.*

*I wish you all a great start to the school year and a happy, safe and successful year ahead.*

Melanie Wright

Trustee, Aurora and Whitchurch-Stouffville