

April 2018

# The Northern Highlights

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**ORLIE SOROKA**  
x153

**VICE-PRINCIPAL:**  
**MELISSA KING**  
x154

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X150  
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X151

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[School Website](http://northernlights.ps.yrdsb.ca) northernlights.ps.yrdsb.ca

[School Attendance Reporting](http://yrdsb.edsb.com) yrdsb.edsb.com

[School Cash Online](http://yrdsb.schoolcashionline.com) yrdsb.schoolcashionline.com

[School Bus Info](http://schoolbuscity.com) schoolbuscity.com

## Administrators' Message

Dear Families,

It has been a busy start to spring at Northern Lights. There have been lots of opportunities for students to get involved – from junior basketball to our grade 2 and 3 Cup Castle Club, it's great to see students working towards a joint passion. Our fabulous grade 7 and 8 leaders just facilitated our second Peace Day, where K-8 mixed-grade teams met together to engage in team building activities and learning about creating a peaceful learning environment.

April is looking to be a busy month as well, with the wrap-up to our Read-a-Thon fundraiser, Family Bingo Night, our final Peace Day, book fair, and our annual "Rock & Roll Extravaganza" spring concert!

If you are the parent/guardian of a child in grade 3 or 6, please mark these dates onto your calendars, and try to ensure your child will be present at school for the EQAO assessment: May 22 to June 1. Please try to limit any appointments, visits, etc. during this time. Further information with more specific dates will be sent home to grade 3 and 6 families in the coming months.

Finally, we would like to wish our caretakers **Mr. Lightbound** and **Mr. Vankoughnett** the very best, as they both retire this month! They have both been an integral part of our Northern Lights community for many years, and we appreciate their dedication to keeping our school safe and clean. They will be missed!

*Mrs. O. Soroka*  
Principal

*Ms. M. King*  
Vice-Principal



*"Show the light within you, and let your true colours shine!"*

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## Parent Information

### Lost and Found

Our lost and found is now full of winter clothing, boots, shoes, etc. Over the next two weeks, we will be encouraging students to check the lost and found for items they may be missing.

Any items left will be donated as of April 13<sup>th</sup>. Bingo night is April 12<sup>th</sup>, which may be a good time for families to take a look and collect missing items.

Thank you!



### Kindergarten Registration Continues

Kindergarten registration continues through the school year. Forms are available on YRDSB's website: [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca). Or, you can attain a copy at the school. Children who turn four or five years old during 2018, live within the school boundary and whose parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for kindergarten. Please register at your earliest convenience, as planning for September has already begun.

For more information, please visit the YRDSB website or contact our school office.

### Are you moving for September 2018?

We are already beginning the planning process for the 2018-19 school year. As the winter and spring months unfold, we are continuing to monitor our enrollment to ensure that our numbers are current and accurate.

If you are moving and/or **your child will not be attending Northern Lights next school year**, please fill in the form below and return it to the school as soon as possible.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Moving to: \_\_\_\_\_ (city or new school name if known)

Thank you for your support!

### Planning for September 2018 – Parent Input

Later this spring we will begin the process of organizing classes for September 2018. We strive to place students in the most positive learning environment possible; given each individual pupil's skills, knowledge, attitudes, and work and social habits. It is important to recognize that while we try to place each child in the optimum learning environment, all final decisions regarding pupil placement remain the responsibility of the school principal. If you have any information about your child that you feel would be pertinent in the placement process (e.g., learning styles, twins' placements), please inform the Principal, Orlie Soroka ([orlie.soroka@yrdsb.ca](mailto:orlie.soroka@yrdsb.ca)) in writing by April 30, 2018.

Staff work diligently to balance each classroom to provide the best learning environment possible. Class placement is an important and complex process that takes many hours of thought and discussion. Please do not consider your input confirmation of a particular class placement. Final class placement will be available on the first day of school.

## Parent Information

### Contribute to Strategic Planning at YRDSB - Upcoming Town Halls

York Region District School Board is revisioning its Multi-Year Plan (MYP) and Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-being. The Board of Trustees is responsible for setting the strategic direction of public education in York Region public schools. The MYP incorporates the direction established by the Trustees with feedback received from all stakeholders, and will inform decision making at the Board in the years to come. Town halls will be taking place across the region and feedback collected from families and community members will inform the creation of a new MYP. Your voice is important and your input and feedback will help York Region District School Board support student achievement and well-being. There will also be other opportunities, including a survey available in April, to share your thoughts if you are unable to attend a town hall.

#### Save the Date!

TOWN HALL DATES AND TIMES	LOCATIONS
Monday, April 16, 2018 7 - 9 p.m.	Keswick High School 100 Biscayne Blvd., Keswick
Wednesday, April 18, 2018 6 - 9 p.m.	Markville Secondary School 1000 Carlton Rd., Markham
Sunday, April 22, 2018 2 - 4 p.m.	Sir William Mulock Secondary School 705 Columbus Way, Newmarket
Wednesday, April 25, 2018 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Maple High School 50 Springside Rd., Maple
Saturday, April 28, 2018 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Bayview Secondary School 10077 Bayview Ave., Richmond Hill

### Relocation/Replacement of Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School

We are pleased to announce that the Ministry of Education and the York Region District School Board have identified a path forward for the relocation/replacement of Dr. G.W. Williams SS to a new secondary school site located in the northeast quadrant of Bayview Avenue and Borealis Avenue.

The planning, design and construction of a new secondary school is an exciting but lengthy process. It is estimated that the relocated/replaced Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School will not open earlier than September 2023. Once an opening date has been finalized it will be shared with the community. Until that time, the current Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School will continue to operate as normal.

It has also been determined that the existing Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School facility will be retained by the Board and utilized for administration purposes.

## Parent Information



### Thank you for your support with our Read-a-Thon Fundraiser!

This past month, our school council hosted a Read-a-Thon fundraiser. Students had an opportunity to read books and collect donations in order to earn ballots to win some great prizes!

Now the most exciting part...prizes, prizes, prizes!

#### Read-a-Thon Dates to Remember:

##### April 3<sup>rd</sup>

- all reading logs and donations should be returned in the Read-a-Thon envelope

##### April 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>

- students will receive their ballots for books read & donations collected
- students will cast their ballots for the prizes they want to win

##### April 12<sup>th</sup>

- prizes will be on display at Family Bingo Night
- one last chance to donate at Bingo Night – every \$5.00 donation earns 1 prize ballot

##### April 13<sup>th</sup>

- prize draws will be held
- winners will be announced on the morning announcements

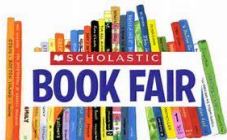


**Family Bingo Night**  
**Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:30-7:30**  
**In the NLPS Gym**  
**(no cost)**



Join us for our final School Council Meeting next month on  
**Monday, May 7th at 7:00pm**  
 in the Library Learning Commons.

#### Book Fair



Join us in our Library Learning Commons  
 during the week of April 23 – 27  
 for our Spring Scholastic Book Fair!

Open Mon-Wed until 4pm, Thurs until 8pm, Fri until noon

## Eco Schools

### April EcoTheme: Reusable Containers



The eco-theme for April is “Reusable Containers”.

We are encouraging staff and students to reduce waste by packing food and beverages in reusable containers.

We are looking forward to celebrating Earth Day this month with a neighbourhood litter clean up, and other activities. Let’s work together to keep our environment healthy!

## Supporting Student Achievement

### Summer Institute

Looking for summer learning and fun activities for students entering Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8? [Summer Institute](#) offers academic, recreational and athletic programs and activities with intentional links to the Ontario Curriculum. The program runs for six weeks during July and August. It is offered at 11 school sites around York Region. For more information on dates, programs and locations, please visit the [Summer Institute](#) page on [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca).

Registration opens March 7. Families can now register online, as well as in person or by mail.

#### Base Registration Weekly Fees:

**York Region District School Board students: \$105 (4 day weeks) \$120 (5 day weeks)**

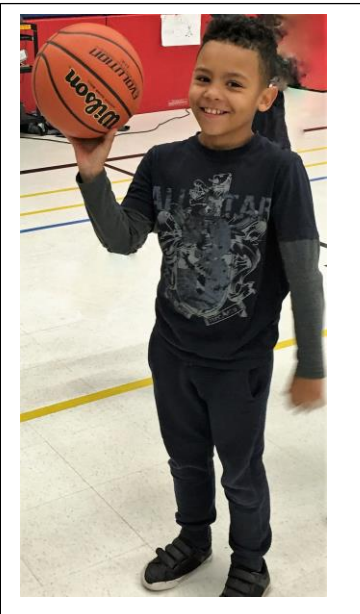
**Non- York Region District School Board students: \$130 (4 day weeks) \$155 (5 day weeks)**

Registration opens March 7. Families can now register online, as well as in person or by mail.

### Healthy Schools Student News

On March 20th, a few students from the Healthy Schools Committee attended the "Power Off and Play" conference in association with the Healthy Kids Community Challenge of Aurora, and the Windfall Ecology Centre. The conference was focused around reducing screen time, and engaging in interactive play with peers, and family. The students had an opportunity to hear from many professionals, and work together to create an action plan for our school. NLPS students were specifically chosen to lead a DPA exercise at the conference, and did an excellent job! Ms. DeCarolis would like to thank those students for representing our school in such a fantastic way!

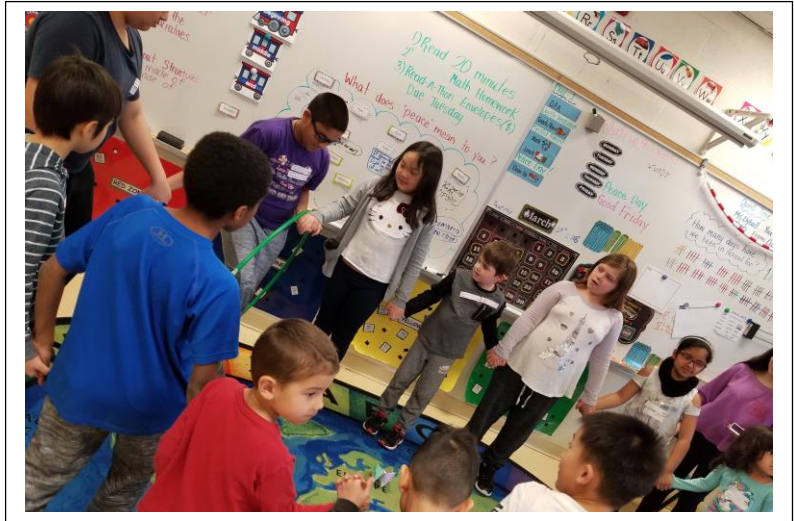




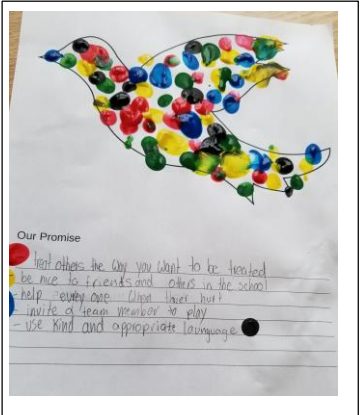
**Carnaval d'Hiver - March 9, 2018**



**Purple Day for Epilepsy Awareness  
March 26, 2018**



**Peace Day #2  
March 29, 2018**



**Our Promise**  
- treat others the way you want to be treated  
- be nice to friends and others in the school  
- help - every one that ever hurt  
- invite a team member to play  
- use kind and appropriate language

# Well-Being

## April Value: Innovation

*We continuously strive to provide the best educational programs for all students. Staff and students take initiative in our learning environment to be innovative leaders.*

### INNOVATION FOR LEARNERS

We demonstrate innovation when:

- we are creative
- we solve problems in new ways
- we collaborate
- we take risks
- we are open to failure
- we learn from mistakes
- we have a growth mindset



### INNOVATION IN LEARNING

We plan for and encourage innovation when:

- we look for new ways to solve problems
- we use an inquiry process to learn about things we wonder about
- we use technology to enhance our learning

### INNOVATION IN OUR ENVIRONMENT

We create and contribute to an innovative environment when:

- we work with others - peers, parents, teachers, administration, community members
- we are curious about the world around us
- we use a variety of spaces in creative ways
- we explore and learn outside

# April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1	2 Easter No School 	3 Autism Awareness Launch Day <b>Wear blue!</b>  Read-a-Thon donations due!	4	5 Author Visit: Elly Mackay K-3	6 This month is Popcorn Fridays \$2 	7	
8	9	10	11 International Day of <b>Pink</b>	12 Bingo Night 6:30-7:30 	13 Read-a-Thon Prize Draw 	14	
15	16	17	18	19 Peace Day Part 3 	20 Litter Round Up!	21	
22 Earth Day 	23 Scholastic Book Fair	24	25	26 Rock & Roll Extravaganza! Spring Concert 6:30pm 	27	28	
29	30 Jump Rope for Heart Kick-off Assembly	<p><b>A is for April, A is for Autism!</b>  <b>Autism Education Month at Northern Lights!</b></p>					

Northern Lights Spirit Wear is available for purchase throughout the year...

Check it out at

<http://www.alletchedup.com/>



### Coming in May...

- May 4 Vaccinations (gr.7 Hep. B, HPV)
- May 9-11 Grade 8 Trip to Camp Muskoka
- May 17 Track & Field (weather permitting)
- May 21 Victoria Day (no school)
- May 23 EQAO begins