

December 2017

# The Northern Highlights

**PRINCIPAL:**  
**ORLIE SOROKA**  
x153

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

**ADMIN SUPPORT:**  
**ALICIA COSTA**  
X150  
**FIONA GAMBLE**  
X151

**SUPERINTENDENT:**  
**BECKY GREEN**  
905 884 4477

**TRUSTEE:**  
**PETER ADAMS-  
LUCHOWSKI**  
416 906-0937

## Contents:

Admin Message	1
Parent Info	2/3
Safe, Caring and Supportive Schools	4
Student & Community Engagement	5
Student Achievement	6
Healthy Schools	
Value: Inclusivity	7
Calendar	8

*Northern Lights Public School 40 Bridgenorth Drive Aurora, ON L6G 7S6*  
Phone 905-727-4224 Fax 905-727-3845

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

[School Attendance Reporting](http://yorkrdsb.schoolconnects.com) yorkrdsb.schoolconnects.com or 1-855-203-2994

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

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

## Administrators' Message

Over the past few months, we have set the ball rolling in the right direction! Students and staff have been extremely engaged in the learning process, as evident by the enthusiasm and participation of our students in all curricular areas. Through inquiry and higher-order problem-solving opportunities, students have been engaged in authentic, real-world tasks that engage their background knowledge and thinking in new and innovative ways.

In addition to a strong academic focus here at Northern Lights, students have had the opportunity to participate in athletics, the arts and technology in a variety of ways. Students are becoming proficient in planning and collaborating using shared, online spaces, allowing them to develop their questioning and reflective skills alongside their peers, while receiving ongoing support and feedback from their teachers. Developing a growth mindset towards persevering and achieving goals has been a school focus as we learn more about the capacity of our brains to continue to grow and get stronger, like every other muscle in our body!

In the month of November, we paid tribute to our heroes on Remembrance Day, we began our learning about Bullying Awareness and Prevention, we recognized our support for our students with diabetes, and we began thinking about our local and global impact, by planning our upcoming Food Drive and writing letters to Canadian soldiers overseas. As well, many students have had an opportunity to use our Podcast Booth in the Library Learning Commons and will be visiting our Book Fair to peruse new and exciting titles in the coming weeks.

In the new year, we look forward to continuing to build our students' awareness around inclusivity and equity. We are especially excited to continue our Sustainable Bullying Prevention initiative, to promote peace, friendship and a sense of community amongst all of our students.

As we begin a new year, and reflect upon the year passing by, we want you to know how proud we are of our students and the individual gains each has made. We look forward to continuing to work together with the Northern Lights community in achieving our school goals and wish all of our families and community members a safe and happy holiday!

*Mrs. O. Soroka*  
Principal

*Ms. M. King*  
Vice-Principal



# Parent Information

## Message From Our Trustee Peter Adams-Luchowski

In November, about 1,000 students, staff members and community partners came together from across the Board to form a [Ring of Peace](#) and stand together against hate, discrimination and intolerance. The student speakers at the event shared meaningful messages about the importance of feeling welcome, valued and respected.

At York Region District School Board, we are committed to listening to the voices of our students and communities. We will continue working with our school communities to ensure our schools provide safe, welcoming and inclusive environments for everyone.

Last month, our annual [Quest conference](#) brought together educators from across Ontario, Canada and around the world to share, learn and discuss how to foster well-being in schools. Some of the themes covered included equity and inclusivity, and safe and caring environments.

It was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about some of the positive things happening in our own schools and other districts. In recent months, we have had several international visitors come to our system and schools to learn more about the work in our system to support student achievement and well-being, including Qatar, the Netherlands, Texas and the United Kingdom.

We are pleased to have these opportunities to continue highlighting and sharing the great things happening in our schools thanks to our outstanding students, staff members, families and community partners. Your engagement makes a difference in our schools and I encourage you to continue getting involved in the life of your child's school.

As we enter the holiday season, I am once again impressed by the generosity of our school communities and our students' commitment to helping others.

Best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy holiday season and a wonderful start to 2018.

## Kindergarten Registration to Commence January 19, 2018

Kindergarten registration will begin at our school on January 19, 2018 for the 2018-19 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca). Or, you can attain a copy at the school once registration begins.

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.



A kindergarten information session for parents who have registered a student is being planned for Spring 2018. For more information, please visit the YRDSB website or contact our school office.

## Did you know you can support our school anytime?

Throughout the year, the school generates additional funds through school council fundraising programs and hot lunch programs. These funds help to purchase additional items to enhance curricular and extra-curricular programs. In addition to our fundraising programs, families can donate anytime on [www.schoolcashionline.com](http://www.schoolcashionline.com) by clicking **My Account**, then **Make a Donation**. Thank you for your continued support!

# Parent Information

## French Immersion Information Sessions and Registrations for current SK Students

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at French Immersion schools on **January 18, 2018 at 7 p.m.** Please visit YRDSB's website in January 2018 (<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/fi/Pages/Program-Locations.aspx>) to find the FI program location for your elementary school location. FI registration will begin January 19, 2018. Parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2018, and wishing to enroll in the FI Program, can visit or call the school office and request an *Office Index Card - short version*. The Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to the designated FI program location to register between January 19 and February 9, 2018. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrollment information or to pre-register.

YRDSB's FI Accommodation Plan provides long-term consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region and will enable YRDSB to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enroll. The FI program will be offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools, a community's Grade 1-8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student's FI education. Space requirements at some schools may mean that siblings are in different schools for primary dual track French Immersion programs due to differing grade structures. Like any of our schools across the Board, changes to school boundaries, and/or the accommodation model for the French Immersion program may need to be considered when new schools open, a school experiences enrolment growth, and program changes occur. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools.

More information is available on the Board's website: [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca). Please note: Some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in Policy #108.

## School Bus Cancellations

To ensure the safety of students, school bus service may be cancelled due to inclement weather, extreme temperatures and/or poor road conditions. In these cases, parents and students should develop alternate care/transportation arrangements. Since some busing schedules begin by 7:00 a.m., cancellation decisions must be made by 6:00 a.m. to allow time to communicate this message to bus drivers. Cancellation decisions will only be made after thorough consultation with the Safety Officers of school bus companies servicing York Region and are based on several factors including precipitation, air temperature, road conditions and weather forecast.

Please note the following;

- A decision to cancel school bus service will be **region-wide** meaning all school buses, vans and taxis will not operate.
- When bus service is cancelled all school tests and/or examinations will be cancelled and rescheduled.
- Student trips involving the use of school buses will also be cancelled.
- **School bus routes may be cancelled when severe weather may not be affecting all municipalities in York Region.** Both the YRDSB and YCDSB operate many regional educational programs. Students attending these programs are transported over large attendance areas encompassing several municipal boundaries. This limits the ability to cancel bus service using a municipality or zone methodology.
- Unless otherwise stated, schools will remain open and parents can make arrangements to transport their children to and from school even if school bus service is cancelled. **If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon. Therefore, students transported to school by parents will require the same transportation home.**

Parents, students and school staff are asked to access the following radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information:

### RADIO

590 AM 640 AM 680 AM 860 AM 1010 AM 1050 AM 1540 AM 1580 AM 88.5 FM 89.9 FM 92.5 FM  
93.1 FM 94.9 FM 95.9 FM 97.3 FM 98.1 FM 99.1 FM 99.9 FM 101.1 FM 102.1 FM 104.5 FM 100.7 FM 107.1 FM

### TELEVISION

CITY TV CTV Barrie CTV Toronto CP24 GLOBAL NEWS

A bus cancellation message will also be available at [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com) and by calling 1-877-330-3001, or by following YRDSB and YCDSB on twitter.



# Safe, Caring and Supportive Schools

## Parking Lot Safety – Winter Time Reminder

Our first and foremost commitment is to provide a safe environment for more than 500 students and we ask that all drivers - whether dropping students off or simply commuting to work - drive with particular care in and around the school. Given the traffic congestion challenges associated with having hundreds of students dropped in our Kiss and Ride each day, we would once again encourage you to walk your child to and from school whenever possible. Parents and guardians who drive your children to school, we would ask you to please abide by the following:

- do not park your car, or leave your car idling, in the drop off loop as this backs up the flow
- approach the school patiently, with consideration for pedestrian traffic, other drivers, and the staff on duty
- the Kiss and Ride loop is on the south side of the school; drive cautiously all the way to the top of the loop so that a number of vehicles can drop off at the same time
- take care when merging back into the inner driving lane; no student should be dropped off from the inner driving lane and subsequently walk between vehicles
- at pick-up, if you do not see your child (or children), drivers are asked to continue to circle the Kiss and Ride and pull up curbside only when you see your child
- avoid distractions such as texting or using the phone
- never direct your child to walk through the parking lot
- do not drop your child (or children) off in the bus loop
- **never park in the bus loop, as it is a Fire Route: cars parked in this loop may be towed**

**Never leave you  
child/infant/baby in your  
vehicle unattended!**

## Bullying Awareness and Prevention

During the month of November, we launched our Bullying Awareness and Prevention campaign. To build a common understanding, students heard the following morning announcements about a few of the different types of bullying.

**Physical bullying** includes any physical contact that would hurt or injure a person like hitting, kicking, punching, etc. Taking something that belongs to someone else and destroying it would also be considered a type of physical bullying. For example, if someone was walking down the street and someone came up to them and shoved them to the ground, that would be physical bullying. In elementary and middle schools, 30.5% of all bullying is physical.

**Verbal bullying** is name-calling, making offensive remarks, or joking about a person's religion, gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or the way they look. For example, if there was a group of kids who made fun of another kid because he couldn't run as fast as everyone else, it would be an example of verbal bullying. 46.5% of all bullying in schools is the verbal type. Verbal aggression is when a bully teases someone. It can also include a bully making verbal threats of violence or aggression against someone's personal property.

**Indirect bullying** includes spreading rumors or stories about someone, telling others about something that was told to you in private, and excluding others from groups. An example would be if you started a rumor that a boy in your class likes a certain type of toy, and if the reason that you made up the story was because you thought it was funny. This would be indirect bullying. Indirect bullying accounts for 18.5% of all bullying.

**Cyberbullying** is done by sending messages, pictures, or information using electronic media, computers (email & instant messages), or cell phones (text messaging & voicemail). For instance, if you sent a picture of something scary to someone to frighten them, that would be an example of cyberbullying. According to a survey done back in 2003 only 4% of bullying was listed as "other types" and this would include cyberbullying. Even though this number seems small, the growth of this type of bullying has been increasing because of the increased use of technology around the world.



Throughout the school year, we will be addressing the topic of Bullying through the lens of peace and community building. Stay tuned for updates throughout the year.



# Student and Community Engagement

## Student Council

Our student council has been actively planning a number of initiatives for the coming month.

### School-Wide Food Drive – Monday, December 4 – Friday, December 15

The Aurora Food Pantry relies on donations this time of year to get them through the rest of the year. This year we are specifying items by grade in order to help collect the items most in need. Let's work together to help others in our community. If possible, please send in items according to the following guidelines...

- Kindergarten** baby food, formula, diapers, wipes, baby care items
- Grades 1 & 8** personal hygiene items (toothpaste, floss, toothbrushes, shampoo/conditioner, body wash, feminine products, deodorant, lotion)
- Grades 2 & 7** pasta, crackers, cereals, granola bars, nutritious school snacks
- Grade 3 & 4** canned goods, chili, soup, sauces, soups, jams, lentils, beans
- Grade 5 & 6** paper products (toilet paper, paper towels) & diapers, juice boxes, canned fruit/vegetables



Collection bins will be marked by grade in the front foyer surrounding our "Tree of Kindness".

### Candy Grams – Sales Tuesday, December 12 – Friday, December 15

Students may choose to purchase a Candy Gram, which is a candy cane with a special note, to send to a friend. Candy grams will be sold at morning recess in the front foyer on the dates above for **\$1 each**. They will be distributed on **Friday December 22**.

### Spirit Days - Monday, December 11 – Friday, December 15

Please check the calendar on the last page of this newsletter for our special spirit days. Dress up to show your school spirit!

## Parent Engagement and Network (PEN) for Chinese Families

The workshops will be presented by educators from the York Region District School Board (Language: Mandarin and Cantonese).

Please choose one of the following sessions:

Elementary: How To Use Your Child's Most Recent Report Card to Support Learning (Please bring your child's latest Report Card)

Secondary: How To Support Your Child's Post-Secondary Planning and Application Process (Please bring your child's Credit Counselling Summary)

Community Classes (Elementary and Secondary): How To Use Your Child's IEP to Reinforce Learning at Home (Please bring your child's latest IEP)

**Date & Time: Thursday December 7th, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

**Location: Unionville High School (201 Town Centre Blvd., Markham)**

**Space is limited. Please RSVP: [Online Registration](#)**

Phone registration (please indicate the session you are attending): Jean Wang 416-662-5416

Email registration: Cathy Ng [cathy.ng@yrdsb.ca](mailto:cathy.ng@yrdsb.ca) or Joanne Tang [joanne.tang@yrdsb.ca](mailto:joanne.tang@yrdsb.ca)



Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés  
et Citoyenneté Canada

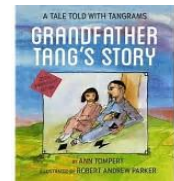
## Supporting Student Achievement

### Math and Picture Books by Edugains

Reading to your child is both a wonderful way to spend time together and also an effective way to engage your child in conversation. Students of all ages love stories and love to talk about stories. "Literature provides students with opportunities to make connections with their own lives, provides a context to think and practise mathematics, and enriches students' view of the world of mathematics." *A Guide to Effective Instruction in Mathematics, Kindergarten to Grade 6*.

Listed below are a few titles to begin the conversation about mathematics at home. These picture books are connected to several math strands of the Ontario mathematics curriculum from your child's report card:

- Caps for Sale, by Esphyr Slobodkina (Number Sense and Patterning)
- The Doorbell Rang, by Pat Hutchins (Number Sense)
- Count to 10 with a Mouse, by Margaret Wise Brown (Number Sense)
- Is a Blue Whale the Biggest Thing There IS? by Robert Wells (Measurement)
- Actual Size, by Steve Jenkins (Measurement)
- One Grain of Rice, by Demi (Number Sense and Multiplication and Division)
- Grandfather Tang's Story, by Ann Tompert (Geometry)
- Stone Soup, by Heather Forest (Data Management and Probability)



If you and your child are more comfortable in a language other than English, then read to your child in that language. Your local public library may be helpful in choosing books connected to mathematics. You can also access digital books online in a number of languages at <http://en.childrenslibrary.org/>

## Healthy and Eco Schools

### Junior Chef Program

On December 1st, 2017 a few intermediate student ambassadors will be guiding the grade 5 students through a Junior Chef Workshop. Students will be thoroughly trained on proper hand washing, food handling, knife handling, measuring techniques, recipe reading, and grater and skillet safety. After they are trained, they will be preparing two healthy and nut free recipes.

The intermediate student ambassadors will receive a leadership training certificate, and all grade 5 students will be taking home copies of the recipes, and food safety handouts. This program has been offered to us by York Region Public Health, and sponsored by the Healthy Kids Community Challenge of Aurora. NLPS is very lucky to partake in this collaborative, leadership opportunity!



### December's Eco-Theme: Reduce your footprint!



Look around the school and your home for opportunities to adopt new energy and water saving habits. As well, recycle, travel sustainably and be conscious of what you purchase. Avoiding waste will help us to reduce our environmental footprint for generations to come!

**Let's do our part Ice Cats!**

# Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity

## November & December Value: Inclusivity

*We work together to create an environment in which all students, staff, parents, and our community feel valued and have a sense of belonging. Empathy and mutual respect are demonstrated in our words and actions.*

### INCLUSIVITY FOR **LEARNERS** - diversity, interests, strengths, & needs

We build a sense of belonging when:

- listen to and value all voices
- include others in the classroom, on the playground, and in the community

We demonstrate empathy when:

- we try to understand other points of view or perspectives when we disagree
- we value the emotions and feelings of others

We demonstrate mutual respect when:

- we treat ourselves and others with courtesy, dignity, and a positive mindset
- we honour the rights of others

### INCLUSIVITY IN **LEARNING** - communication, collaboration, & problem-solving

We build a sense of belonging when:

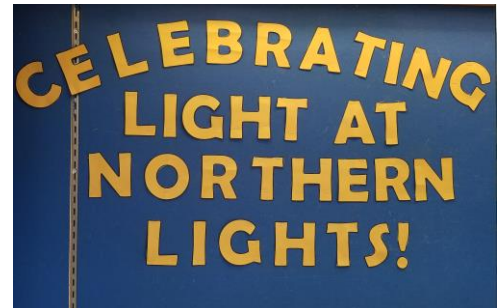
- students have the time and support needed for learning
- our learning is personalized

We demonstrate empathy when:

- we understand that everyone learns differently

We demonstrate mutual respect when:

- we are open to working and learning with others
- we advocate for what we need
- we believe that we all can learn



### INCLUSIVITY IN OUR **ENVIRONMENT** - safe & inclusive space

We build a sense of belonging when:

- we include space and time for collaboration in the learning environment
- we see ourselves represented in our learning environment

We demonstrate empathy when:

- we ask questions when we don't understand differences in our environment

We demonstrate mutual respect when:

- we respect the environment and the world around us

# December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Coming up in the new year...</p> <p>Jan 8 – First Day Back at School            Jan 19 – PA Day: No School Kdgn/FI Reg Begins            Feb 2 – PA Day: No School            Feb 5 – School Council 7pm            Feb 19 – Family Day: No School</p>					1	2
					Gr 1 & 2 Skating	
					Do you have small skates or helmets to donate? Please send them in.	
						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
 Food Drive	Food Drive Starts 				Gr 1 & 2 Skating	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
 Book Fair	School Council 7pm Join us! <b>BOOK FAIR!</b> Until 4pm	Dec 12-15 Candygram Sales  <b>BOOK FAIR!</b> Until 4 pm	<b>BOOK FAIR!</b> Until 4pm	Holiday Concert <b>BOOK FAIR!</b> Until 8:30pm	Gr 1 & 2 Skating Food Drive Ends <b>BOOK FAIR!</b>	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
 Spirit Week	Winter Colour Day	Ugly Sweater Day	Hat Day	Crazy Sock Day	Gr 1 & 2 Skating Pajama Day <i>Have a safe and happy break!</i>	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Northern Lights Spirit Wear is available for purchase throughout the year...  
 Check it out at <http://www.alletchedup.com/>

