

February 2018

The Northern Highlights

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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.schoolcashonline.com) yrdsb.schoolcashonline.com

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

Administrators' Message

Dear Families,

As winter is well underway, we look towards the beginning of Term 2. Parents will receive Term 1 report cards on February 14th, 2018. Be sure to read the comments with your child for the learning skills and academic areas. This is a wonderful opportunity to set goals together. There is an opportunity for students to reflect on their Term 1 evaluation on Page 3 of the report card. As well, parents have an opportunity to comment on Page 4 of the report card. Parents, please sign and return the tear-off portion as soon as possible, along with the report card envelope.

This month, we are excited to begin our series of Peace Days, Le Carnaval, Winter Eco initiatives and to celebrate our 100th day of school with a primary Snuggle Up and Read afternoon! As well, our kindergarten students will go skating, our Volleyball and Basketball teams will continue their team journeys, while our junior and intermediate students will get to try their hands at golf! Please see the calendar on the last page for many important dates!

At the end of this month, we are excited to launch our first official Read-a-thon fundraiser. Students will be encouraged to read and earn ballots by filling in a reading log and collecting donations. See page 3 of this newsletter for some initial information. A detailed package will come home on February 28th!

Last year, parents had the opportunity to participate in a board-wide survey. Information about the results of that survey will be shared in the coming months.

We wish all of our families a wonderful Family Day weekend Feb 17-19!

Mrs. O. Soroka
Principal

Ms. M. King
Vice-Principal

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

Parent Information

Reminder: You should report your child's absences on Edsby!

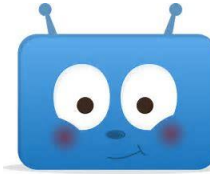
Log in to your yrdsb.edsby.com account to submit an absence.

Absent Today:

1. Parent clicks Absent Today and a form opens.
2. Parent selects a Reason and clicks Send to School Office.

Future Dates:

1. Parent clicks Schedule Absence and a form opens.
2. For all day absences, the parent selects All Day and enters the dates of the absences.
For partial day absences, the parent specifies a Start and End Time.
3. Parent selects a Reason and clicks Send to School Office.



Report
attendance
on Edsby!

As we continue to transition to Edsby, we will be posting communication that has been emailed out, on the embedded "river", which appears down the centre of the Edsby homepage when you log in. Take a look!

Planning 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!

Kindergarten Registration Continues

Kindergarten registration continues through the school year. Forms are available on YRDSB's website: 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.



French Immersion Registration Continues

If you have a current SK child, and are thinking about a French Immersion program for grade one, be sure to request a student index card from our office as soon as possible, and take it to Aurora Grove Public School.

Parent Information

Message from our School Council...



Join us for school council this month on
Monday, February 5th at 7:00pm
in the Library Learning Commons.



**We are also excited to launch our
Read-a-thon at the end of the month!**

Coffee with Council

Join us **Tuesday, February 6th**
from **8:45-9:30am**.

Catch up with council to find out
what's new and what's on the go
at Northern Lights!

Read-a-thon!

From **February 28th to April 3rd**, our school council
will host a read-a-thon fundraiser. Students will have
an opportunity to read books and collect donations in
order to earn ballots to win some great prizes!

Stay tuned for more information
near the end of the month!

Student Safety: Parking Lot and Bus Route

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:

- approach the school patiently, with consideration for pedestrian traffic, other drivers, and the staff on duty
- drive cautiously all the way to the top of the parking lot loop so that a number of vehicles can drop off at the same time curbside; **DO NOT double park, this encourages students to walk between cars!**
- take care when merging back into the inner driving lane
- avoid distractions such as texting or using the phone
- **never direct your child to walk through the parking lot unsupervised from a parking spot**
- 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
- at no time should a vehicle be left unattended, running or otherwise parked in the Kiss and Ride
- kindergarten students will follow the same procedure but will be escorted by a staff member into their respective kindergarten enclosure

As well...

- The bus loop is for emergency vehicles and buses only;
DO NOT drop off or pick up from the bus loop.
- There is no parking on Earl Stewart Dr. When cars park on Earl Stewart Dr. It makes it difficult for the bus to safely turn onto Bridgenorth Dr.

We will continue to monitor our arrival and dismissal procedures with our students' safety in mind.

Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.



Parent Information

Reminder: Food Policy

Please be reminded that in order to ensure the safety of all our students and to support our Healthy Schools initiatives, parents/guardians are asked **not to send food to share for Valentine's Day, birthdays or other celebrations/occasions.**

On a regular basis, packing a healthy and balanced lunch is important. While packing your child's lunch, please be sure to check all labels for nut ingredients, or "may contain nuts" warnings, and do not send these food items to school. Let's work together to keep our students healthy and safe!



A Note from our Trustee

With report cards coming home, this is a good time of year to review your child's progress and to set goals for the rest of the school year. As trustees, our goals are set out in the Board [Multi-Year Plan](#). In the coming months, trustees will be reviewing and updating this plan. This process will include opportunities for public input, and trustees will be out in the communities talking about this. More information will be shared about this in the spring.

Developing and reviewing the Multi-Year Plan is just one of our responsibilities as publicly elected officials. Trustee responsibilities also include hiring the Director of Education, setting [Board policies](#) and the [annual budget](#), and communicating with the public. This is a good time to learn more about the [role of trustees](#) with the next [municipal election](#) taking place later this year on October 22, 2018. York Region District School Board has [12 trustees](#), elected by ratepayers. As a trustee, listening and communicating with families is an important part of my role. Students, families and members of the public are welcome to attend and observe any public Board, Advisory or Board Committee meetings and to share their views with us on policy and Board governance.

As we move into the second half of the year, I hope that you are seeing evidence of your child's learning and progress, and finding opportunities to get involved in their learning and the life of the school. I wish you all the best for a successful second term.

Eco Schools

Upcoming Eco-School Initiatives

Feb 6 – Winter Sweater and Hat Day! We will reduce the temperature in the school by a couple of degrees to track how we can conserve energy!

Feb 7 – Winter Walk Day for Primary! We will celebrate how "walking" helps to decrease pollution in our environment!

February's Eco-Theme: Cut back! Reduce the use of paper towel!

How do we **Reduce** paper towel use without compromising the requirements for hand hygiene? One way is to educate and remind students by creating and posting attention-grabbing signs around the school/office and at paper towel dispensers that motivate people to use less paper towels. Using the hand dryers as an option or just one piece, rather than many, can go a long way to reducing our paper towel usage.



Let's do our part Ice Cats!

Supporting Student Achievement

Peace Days: Building Inclusivity at Northern Lights

Over the next few months, we are excited to launch our “Peace Days” initiative at Northern Lights!

Beginning February 16, 2018, students will meet and spend time with their “country” group for Le Carnaval and three additional dates in February, March and April. Each country will include students of various ages. Countries will move through workshops where they will learn about inclusivity, anti-bullying, kindness and community building.

Our student ambassadors who attended “The Peace Tree” and “Ring of Peace” conferences in the Fall, will act as our ambassadors, while our Student Council members will help plan and facilitate the learning workshops.



We will keep you posted with updates throughout!

How can families support...

1. Be informed

- o additional resources are available on the [Caring and Safe Schools site](#) web resources and posters on digital citizenship and sexting.

2. Model positive peer relationships and coping skills

- o Youth are observant - how do you act in the grocery line, on the roads or when in conflict with a partner, colleague or friend?

3. Pause with curiosity

- o If your child or student is involved in a bullying situation, or having trouble with peer relations, use positive coping skills to remain calm, assess the situation and listen before reacting

4. Advocacy instead of aggression

- o Effective advocacy is about appropriate and respectful communication, loud and aggressive communication is not nearly as effective when dealing with school staff or other families.

5. Encourage upstanding behaviour

- o According to Young Canadians’ Experiences with Electronic Bullying, PREVnet/Media Smarts (2015), youth needed to know that their actions would make a difference, not reward or praise, but that their concerns will be taken seriously, that adults would be helpful and that they could do so without turning themselves into targets.

Well-Being

February & March Value: Engagement

We encourage active participation in all learning and activities by creating an environment that engages students, staff, parents, and our community.

ENGAGEMENT FOR **LEARNERS**

We demonstrate engagement when:

- we are curious, and wonder ‘why’
- we are interested, excited, enthusiastic
- we listen, think, question, and respond
- we create, plan, solve problems, evaluate
- we perform, explore, explain



ENGAGEMENT IN **LEARNING**

We plan for and encourage engagement when:

- we have clear goals
- we know what success looks like
- we provide and receive feedback
- students have a voice, and choice in their learning
- learning is ‘doing’



ENGAGEMENT IN OUR **ENVIRONMENT**

We create and contribute to an engaging environment when:

- we work with others - peers, parents, teachers, administration, community members
- we connect our learning to the world
- we see ourselves in our learning environment
- we are inclusive of all learners

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
				1 Gr 3 VIP	2 PA Day No School	3	
4	5 School Council 7pm	6 Winter Sweater and Hat Day Coffee with Council 8:45-9:30am	7 Primary Winter Walk Day Gr. 4-8 Electives	8	9 Grade 3 Skating Olympics Spirit Day	10	
11	12	13 Happy 100 th Day of School! Primary Snuggle up and Read am	14 Term 1 Report Cards sent home 	15	16 Peace Day (Part 1) 	17	
18	19 Family Day No School	20 Gr 4-6 Golf Program (during Gym)	21	22 Kdgn Skating Tustin/Martin	23 Grade 8 Grad Photos Kdgn Skating Jones/Clubine	24	
25	26 Dental Screening Gr. K/2/8 Gr. 6 VIP	27 Dental Screening Gr. K/2/8	28 Read-a-thon Starts Today! Family Connections 3:15-4:15	Coming in March... March 9 March 12-16 March 30 April 2			Le Carnaval March Break No School Good Friday No School Easter No School

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

