

January 2018

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

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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://www.edsby.com) www.edsby.com

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

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

Administrators' Message

Dear Families,

Welcome Back and Happy New Year! We hope you had an opportunity to spend some time with family and friends during the winter break. As 2018 begins, we reflect on the year past and set goals for student achievement. Students will receive their Term 1 report cards on February 14th and will set personal goals for continued growth in Term 2.

During the last month of 2017, many of our students performed in our Holiday Concert, our grade 8 students designed a Career Fair, we hosted our winter Book Fair, and our student council organized our Spirit Week. Thank you to our community who supported our student council to collect a significant amount of food, toiletries and household items for the Aurora Food Pantry. The items were delivered by our School Council volunteers.

This month we begin our planning for the 2018-2019 school year. Kindergarten registration and French Immersion registration begins on January 19, 2018. As well, we begin to track our student enrollment to ensure our staffing needs are met for next year. If you are planning a move to another school for next year, please fill in the form on page 2 of this newsletter and return it to the school office at your earliest convenience.

As a reminder, during the cold winter months it is very important for children to come to school appropriately dressed for snow, slush, wind chill and icy conditions. We encourage students to wear proper waterproof footwear, scarves, gloves, warm coats and snow pants. An extra pair of socks and indoor shoes are also important to keep feet warm and dry. Our school's safe-entry plan includes salting icy areas. Please remind your child that pushing and sliding on the ice is not allowed. As well, snow must remain on the ground - snow often contains small stones or pieces of ice that can cause injuries to others.

Wishing the Northern Lights community a happy and safe New Year!

Mrs. O. Soroka
Principal

Ms. M. King
Vice-Principal

Parent Information

IMPORTANT: Student Attendance on Edsby begins January 30!

Thank you to our families for creating Edsby accounts in the Fall to book your child's interview time. We are now ready to move towards reporting student absences on Edsby. **Beginning January 30**, log in to your www.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.



Stay tuned for more information in January via email to our parent community.

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 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. 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.



Parent Information

French Immersion Information Sessions and Registration 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 Friday, 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. 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 radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information:

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



Parent Information

Building Trust – The Pathway to Higher Performance

by Dr. Thompson, Conversational Intelligence Coach



Thursday, January 25th at 7 pm – 8:30 pm
Aurora Grove Public School
Child minding available

This is a free and open event.

- An interactive learning opportunity based on brain science.
- How do you help your student achieve more at school, at home, and with friends?
- How can you work with teachers to achieve higher outcomes for your student?
- How can you help with homework and extra –curricular activities to build success?

Presented by the School Council of Aurora Grove Public School with sponsorship by ProGrant.

Become a Host Family

YRDSB operates a robust homestay program where hundreds of international visa students are placed each semester for their study duration. These students are interested in a full immersion experience where they can improve their English skills and experience Canadian culture first hand.

If you are interested in an enriching experience, by hosting an international visa student you will:

- learn about other countries and cultures
- learn about your own environment through a visitor's eyes
- form new friendships
- foster respect for our global community
- recapture youthful energy

Can you provide?

- caring, comfortable accommodation for a student
- an English speaking environment
- opportunities for the student to participate in family life and local activities
- integration of an international student into your family
- a private room, 3 meals per day plus snacks (it is recommended that Canada's Food Guide is followed to ensure that nutritious and well-balanced meals are provided)
- easy access to a public school in York Region on foot or by public transit

Once the host family application is received, and it is determined that the requirements are met, you will be contacted and an interview and visit arranged at your home. Once approved, anyone living in the home, age 18+ will be required to undergo a Police Vulnerable Sector Screen Check (PVSC). The cost of the PVSC is at the applicant's expense.

The following home accommodations will not be considered:

- basement
- homes with tenants (renters/boarders)

Role of Host/Custodian

The host/custodian will provide regular care, support and supervision to the student at all times. This includes school-related, personal and medical emergencies as required.

For information contact:

International Education Services
36 Regatta Avenue
Richmond Hill, ON L4E 4R1
T 905 884 2046
E homestay@yrdsb.ca

Eco Schools

January's Eco-Theme: Good On One Side (GOOS) Paper

Do you have a "GOOS" paper box in your home?
A GOOS box will help encourage all of us to **Reuse** paper first, before recycling. Reusing paper will contribute significantly to reducing the amount of paper used at home and at school.

Thank you for helping to make a difference!



Supporting Student Achievement

Building a Positive Math Mindset

When students and educators have a growth mindset, they understand that intelligence can be developed. Students focus on improvement instead of worrying about how smart they are. They work hard to learn more and get smarter. Based on years of research by Stanford University's Dr. Dweck, Lisa Blackwell Ph.D., and their colleagues, we know that students who learn this mindset show greater motivation in school, better grades, and higher test scores.

Here are some ways you can help your child develop a math growth mindset

Praise your child's effort through challenging tasks as opposed to perceived intelligence or talent. *"Wow, that was a tough problem! I noticed how you took your time to solve it in two different ways."*

Value mistakes and look for the "good" math in incorrect answers. Our brains grow when we recognize, think about, and learn from our mistakes. *"I noticed that you made a plan for solving this problem, but it looks like something might be missing. Can you explain the steps you took to find your answer?"*

Model positive math mindset at home. Avoid justifying your child's achievement in mathematics based upon your own experiences. Children tend to identify with the strengths and weakness of their parents and will often say, *"My mom (or dad) was never good at math either."* This only reinforces a child's fixed mindset belief that intelligence is something you are born with.

Appreciate that learning takes time and it is a product of effort. It's not as much about the outcome as it is about the thinking and connections made during the process. *"It looks like you're stuck trying to make a plan to solve that problem. Can you make a connection to something you already know about measuring length that might help you?"*

Be careful not to place a value on speed or memorization of math facts. Expecting your child to respond quickly to math fact questions like 3×4 or $86 - 12$ may lead to a significant math anxiety and an intense dislike of math. Instead, place value on your child's ability to think flexibility with number. *"I took 10 away from 86 and got 76. Then I took 2 more away and got 74."*

Look for opportunities to find the math in everyday situations. Time, money, measurements, probability, rate, ratio, spatial sense, and fractions are just a few of the math ideas that can be found in our daily lives. For example – when doubling a recipe, calculating tax on the amount of a sale item, calculating elapsed time, the fairness of a game, or whether the sofa will fit in a particular space.

-excerpts by Kristen Muscat-Fennell
Mathematics Facilitator K-8,
Simcoe Country Board of Education



Well-Being

January Value: Responsibility

We are individually and collectively responsible for creating the best possible school community to support the achievement and well-being of all individuals.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR **LEARNERS**

We demonstrate responsibility when:

- we understand that our words and actions can have positive and/or negative consequences
- we consistently make positive choices
- we accept responsibility for our own behaviour

RESPONSIBILITY FOR **LEARNING**

We demonstrate responsibility when:

- we consistently participate in learning tasks
- we follow classroom and school norms and routines
- we use class time effectively

RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR **ENVIRONMENT**

We demonstrate responsibility when:

- we take care of personal and school materials and use them appropriately
- we keep our indoor and outdoor spaces clean and tidy
- we respect our school (indoor and outdoor spaces)



January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Do you have small skates or helmets to donate? Please send them in.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Welcome Back!	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 PA Day No School Kdgn Registration/ French Immersion Registration Begins Today	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Grade 3 Skating	27
28	29	30	31	Coming in Feb... 2 PA Day 5 School Council 7pm 9 Grade 3 Skating 19 Family Day - No School		

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

