

March 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.y.com) yrdsb.edsb.y.com

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

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

Administrators' Message

Dear Families,

This month, we are looking forward to celebrating the final days of winter, and welcoming spring!

Our annual Carnaval d'hiver will take place on March 9th, and will be a great day to actively engage in some traditional winter activities. We're hoping that Bonhomme will be able to join us again this year! Our second 'Peace Day' on March 29th will be a follow-up opportunity for students in different grades to learn together about what makes a peaceful community, and how each individual can make a difference!

March 26th is Epilepsy Awareness day. Our students will be showing their support by wearing **purple**, and learning a little about how to safely support our friends who have epilepsy.

Our Read-a-Thon fundraiser is underway! Our launch assembly was Feb. 28th, and your child should have brought home their donation envelope and information. Please see pg. 4 for important dates to remember. Our history of fundraising has contributed substantially to our school in so many ways and is responsible for technology and enhancements, such as 55 new chrome books this year, our scoreboard, outdoor benches and modern learning furnishings in our school library. Your contributions make a real difference!

We wish all of our families a safe and happy Mid-Winter Break, March 12-16! As the season changes from winter to spring, please be aware of thawing ice that can contribute to fast moving, high water, and flooding in areas. Be safe!

Mrs. O. Soroka
Principal

Ms. M. King
Vice-Principal

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

Parent Information

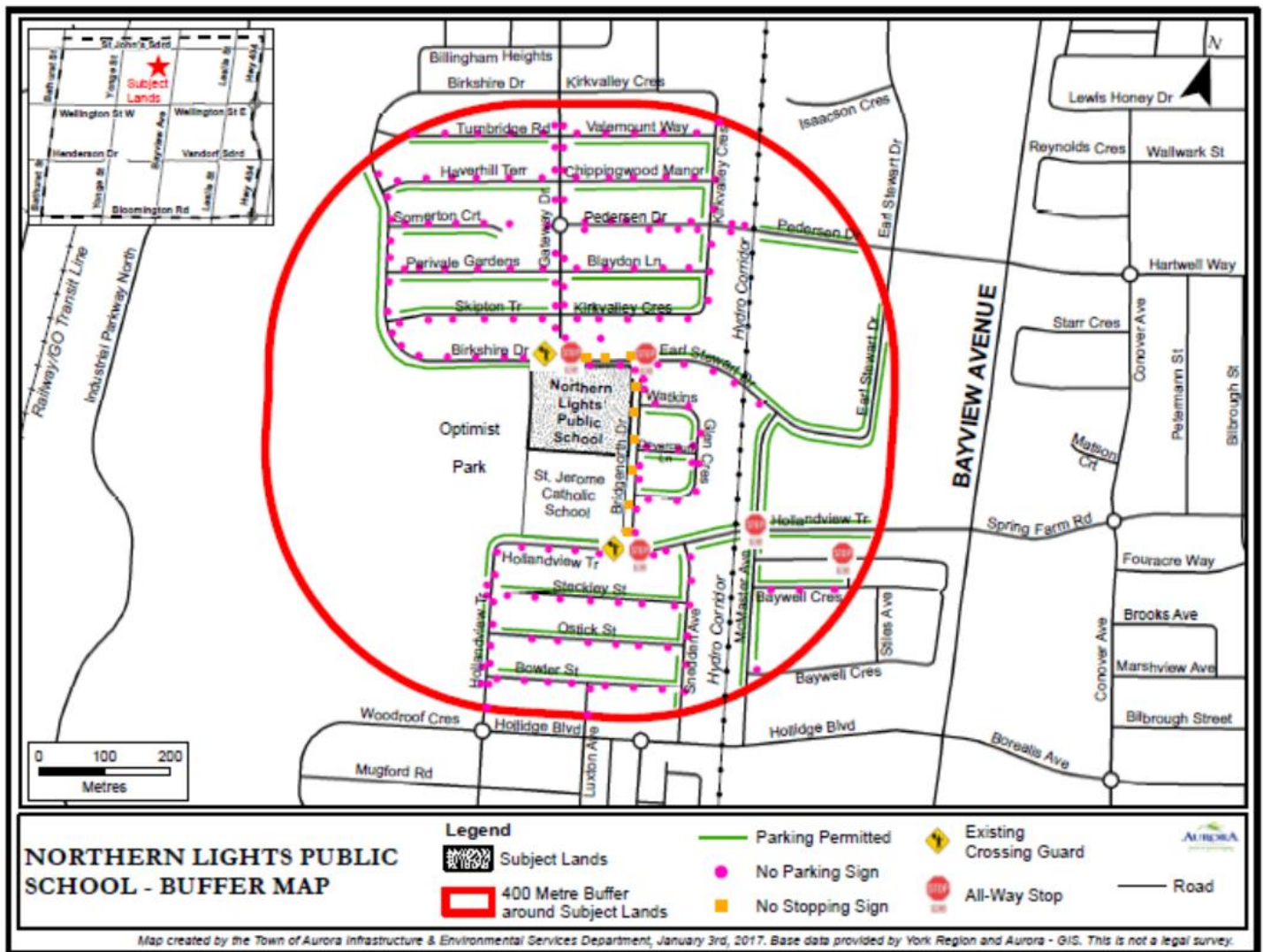
Safe and Active Routes to School

Please follow the **no stopping** and **no parking** signs that are posted on the streets surrounding our school, including Earl Stewart Drive, and Bridgenorth Drive. Our students' safety is our priority, and the posted signs are meant to help keep our community safe.

We are a walking community – most of our students live within walking distance to NLPS. We want to ensure that we keep our community safe for our students who walk to school.

If you choose to drive your child to school, please use the Kiss 'n' Ride loop in our parking lot, or park on a permitted side street, and walk with your child in to school. Please review the map below for street parking options that are within 400 metres of our school.

Our Healthy Schools Student Club encourage you to "Park the car, it's not that far!". Thank you for your support in keeping our neighbourhood a safe place for everyone to walk to school.



Parent Information

Contribute to Strategic Planning at YRDSB - Upcoming Town Halls

York Region District School Board is revising 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

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!

Parent Information

Message from our School Council...

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



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!

Happy Reading!

Read-a-Thon Dates to Remember:

February 28th – April 3rd

- READ! All students are encouraged to read and collect donations
- 1 prize ballot is earned for every \$5.00 collected
- 2 prize ballots can also be earned for completing a reading log listing 10 books/chapters read

March Break & Easter long weekend

- there may be opportunities for your child to collect donations from family and friends. Please do not send your child door-to-door to unknown neighbours.

April 3rd

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

April 10th & 11th

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

April 12th

- 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 13th

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



Save the Date!
Bingo Night
Thursday, April 12th
6:30-7:30
In the NLPS Gym
(no cost)



Parent Information

Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for volunteers for our annual Fun Fair. We need volunteers who are interested in:

- joining the planning committee
- helping 'behind the scenes' in the weeks leading up to Fun Fair
- helping the day of/night of the Fun Fair (set up, stations, clean up)

We are also looking for volunteers to help with our student nutrition snack program. We need volunteers who may be able to:

- shop for healthy snacks
- prepare (wash fruit, cut vegetables) and fill class snack bins
- deliver snacks to classrooms 1-2 times each week

If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact the office. Thank you!

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.

Help your kids take a break from screen time

Taking a break from screens (computer, television, video and hand-held devices) can be a challenge, but sitting for over seven hours a day can put children at risk for preventable health problems including Type 2 diabetes, obesity and heart disease. Recreational screen time for children should be limited to less than two hours per day.

Tips for parents:

- Talk with your kids about screen time limits – stay committed to your agreement
- Time all screen use. No more than 2 hours of total screen time a day is recommended for children aged 5-11. Screens include TV, hand held electronics like tablets and phones, and internet use
- Consider a no or less screen time rule during the school week and at meal times
- Look at times of the day when your family can do something active together
- Look for more tips at www.mediasmarts.ca



This material has been provided by York Region Public Health. For more information on physical activity please visit www.york.ca/healthyschools/physicalactivityforschools/ or contact *Health Connection* at 1-800-361-5653, TTY 905-895-4293 to speak with a public health nurse who will provide ongoing support and share tips, resources and information.

Eco Schools

March EcoTheme: Turn Off Computers & Monitors



The eco-theme for March is “Turn Off Computers & Monitors.”

We are working to maximize our school building's overall energy consumption by encouraging staff and students to power off all computers and monitors at the end of each day.

You can save energy at home too, by making sure you power off and unplug charging cords for devices such as cell phones, tablets, and other hand-held electronics when not in use.

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.



Junior students had fun learning fundamental golf skills with Cardinal Golf Club's indoor golf program.



Our youngest learners are staying active this winter!

Future Winter Olympians?

Well-Being

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

March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 The Big Crunch  KDGN Skating Arsenault/ Martin	2 KDGN Skating Fisher/Clubine	3
4	5 School Council 7pm	6	7	8	9 Carnaval  Wear Ice Cat spirit wear or school colour (blue)	10
11 Turn clocks forward	12	13	14 March Break no school	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Olympian Mark Heese presentation Gr. 4-6	22	23 NLPS Earth Hour Power off!	24
25	26 Epilepsy Awareness Day Wear purple	27	28	29 Peace Day Part 2 	30 Good Friday No school	31

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



Coming in April...

- April 2 Easter No School
- April 3 Autism Awareness Day
- April 12 Bingo Night
- April 23-27 Scholastic Book Fair
- April 26 (eve) Rock 'n Roll Extravaganza