

September 2017  
Welcome Back!

# The Northern Highlights

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**ORLIE SOROKA**  
x153

**VICE-PRINCIPAL:**  
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x154

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X151

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[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

Dear Families,

As a new school year begins, we would like to welcome every student, parent, staff member and community member to Northern Lights! We hope you enjoyed your summer vacation and that you had the opportunity to spend time with family and friends and reflect on goals for the upcoming school year.

As communicated in August, our school administration team has changed, and I am most excited to join you as your new Principal, alongside Ms. King. At Northern Lights, our focus will continue to be on demonstrating our core values, improving and consolidating our students' literacy and math skills and developing the inquiry skills necessary to be 21<sup>st</sup> century learners and thinkers. Our staff will continue to develop programs that meet the curriculum expectations as well as differentiate for students' needs and we will work together with students to develop a positive mindset and productive relationships.

Over the summer, we are fortunate that there have been improvements made to the drainage on the field and playground, and excited about the new benches that have been installed. As well, the school has been updated with new window blinds, and some of our new furniture for the learning commons has arrived to support our focus on Modern Learning.

Partnership with the school is key when building a school community and we hope you will strongly consider becoming involved. From attending school council, to volunteering, to working with your child at home, to attending school events - every moment of your time is precious to all of us! Be sure that you have provided your email address to the school to stay up to date (see page 5), as most school communication is sent via email.

Each year brings new challenges – and we are eager and ready to work together and grow together as a community.

We look forward to greeting all of you at our Curriculum Night on **Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017!**

*Mrs. O. Soroka*  
Principal

*Ms. M. King*  
Vice-Principal



# Parent Information

## Staff List

Here are the tentative teacher assignments for 2017-18. Remember, these may change based on student enrolment and need. There is always a possibility that students and teachers may be reorganized near the end of September. We will keep you posted!

Homeroom Teachers	
KA	MS. TUSTIN & MS. DONKIN
KB	MS. CLUBINE
KC	MS. MARTIN & MS. GRIFFIN
KD	MS. JONES & MS. YI
1A	MS. WALTER
1B	MS. DYBALL
1/2A	MS. HOLM
2A	MS. DUNLOP
2/3A	MS. BRYSON
3A	MS. DAWSON
3B	MS. CHEN
4A	MS. GOLDMAN
4B	MR. MACORITTI
4/5A	MR. HIGGINS
5A	MS. DECAROLIS
5/6A	MS. STRONG
6A	MR. MAJOR
6B	MS. GOYAL
7A	MS. JACKSON
7B	MS. ALLEN
8A	MS. MUTO
8B	MS. WHITEHOUSE
Specialty and Support Staff	
SERT CC	MS. KLUCHERT
SERT	MS. PUGLISI
SERT	MR. HUGHES
ELL/LITERACY/MATH/RR	MS. PAIVIO
ELL/LIBRARY	MS. MCGEORGE
ELL/EMPOWER	MS. STODDART
RR/SERT	MS. UGOLINI
MUSIC	MS. BRANDON (FASAN)
PREP	MS. BRESSEL
FRENCH	MS. FRACKE
FRENCH	MS. BLACK
EDUCATIONAL ASST	MS. PAYNE
EDUCATIONAL ASST	MS. REMILLARD
EDUCATIONAL ASST	MS. STREET
EDUCATIONAL ASST	MR. PRICE
HEALTH ASSISTANT	MS. HARTWICK
CYW	MS. PAPA
Office Staff	
ADMIN ASSISTANT	MS. COSTA
SECRETARY	MS. GAMBLE
Caretakers	
MR. LIGHTBOUND	MR. VANKOUGHNETT
MR. PECSENYE	MR. CHERUBINI
Administration	
Principal	MS. SOROKA
Vice-Principal	MS. KING

## School Day Schedule and Calendars

Please see below for our updated school day schedule, which is slightly adjusted from last year. Students will generally go outside for daily physical activity and recesses. Please ensure your child is dressed for the outdoors according to the weather.

Period	Times
<b>Arrival</b>	<b>8:30-8:45</b> (supervision back of the school)
<b>Period 1</b>	8:45-9:05
<b>Period 2</b>	9:05-9:45
<b>Period 3</b>	9:45-10:45
<b>Recess</b>	<b>10:45-11:15</b>
<b>Period 4</b>	11:15-11:35
<b>Period 5</b>	11:35-12:35
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>12:35-1:35</b>
<b>Period 6</b>	1:35 - 2:35
<b>Period 7</b>	2:35 - 3:15
<b>Dismissal</b>	<b>3:15 – 3:30</b> (supervision back of the school)

Please find below the links to a few of our YRDSB calendars. These can be uploaded to your personal calendars if you so wish.

### [Elementary School Calendar 2017-18](#)



[Google Calendar](#) |



[iCal Calendar](#)

### [Elementary 5-Day Cycle Calendar 2017-18](#)



[Google Calendar](#) |



[iCal Calendar](#)

### [Faith Day Calendar](#)



[Google Calendar](#) |



[iCal Calendar](#)

## Parent Information

### Book of Forms

Students will receive a Book of Forms this week. We ask that you complete the forms and permissions as soon as possible and no later than **Friday, September 15, 2017**.

The Book of Forms makes reference to the School Start-Up Package which can be found at the front of the Student Agenda Planner. For now, please provide special lunchtime or pick-up instructions via a handwritten, signed note.



### School Bus Information

For information on bus routes, stop locations, times, late arrivals, cancellation, eligibility, registering a complaint, safety and general information, please visit [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com) or contact the York Region Student Transportation Services School Bus Information Line at 1-877-330-3001.

A student's eligibility to ride the school bus may change according to his or her grade and distance from home to school:

- All students in Grades JK-3 who live within 1.2 km of their school are not eligible for transportation.
- All students in Grades 4-8 who live within 1.6 km of their school are not eligible for transportation.

We will be updating our bus attendance list throughout the first month of school. If your child is eligible to ride the bus, but will not be using this service, please call the office and let us know as soon as possible.



### Join us for School Council

We look forward to working closely with our School Council to best meet the needs of the Northern Lights Public School community. School Council is made up of parents, staff and community members who meet to plan and support our school across a variety of areas.

Our first School Council meeting and elections will be held on **Monday, October 2, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.** in the school library. Those wishing to serve on the School Council as an elected member (chair or co-chair, secretary, treasurer, executive member) need to complete a School Council Nomination Form contained within the School Book of Forms. Those seeking a position must be in attendance at the first meeting. It is expected that School Council executive members attend all regularly scheduled School Council meetings and events. Please note that there are many parents and guardians who consistently attend School Council Meetings and strongly support School Council events who are not elected executive members, but support our work as members at large. *Everyone* is welcome to attend and support the work of the school.

We look forward to working with our School Council this year!

School  
Council

## Parent Information

### Lunchtime Expectations

Students are expected to eat lunch at school and stay on school property at lunch recess. Please help your child by packing a nutritious and litterless lunch each day. Be sure to include healthy snacks and drinks as well. We do not encourage dropping off fast-food for your child.

Please indicate whether your child will be going home for lunch in the Book of Forms. Students who have permission to leave for lunch must sign out, and in, daily in the binder in the school office.

### Allergies

While we take every step to create a risk-free environment, school staff and parents can take important steps to minimize potentially fatal allergic reactions. It is especially important that parents communicate a life-threatening allergy to the school as soon as they are aware of it. Please notify the secretary and your child's teacher so that we take the steps to create accurate records and inform staff of the established protocol. Our school community can support all of our children by reading ingredients carefully, and sending only nut-free lunches and snacks to school.



### Curriculum Night and BBQ



Please join us for this year's

## Curriculum Night

**September 28th, 2017**

**Kindergarten: 6:30 - 7:00p.m.**

**Grades 1-8: 7:00 – 8:00p.m.**



### Volunteers in our School

Volunteers are welcome and greatly appreciated at our school. In accordance with the York Region District School Board's Policies and Procedures, all volunteers who may be interacting with students are required to have Police Vulnerable Sector Check (PVSC). You will be required to bring a request with you from our school. Please visit the office if you are interested in volunteering throughout the school year (in the school, or on trips). We will provide you with a letter that you can take with you to a customer service location. Please visit this [link](#) for cost and locations. Generally, if you go in person you will receive your documentation at your visit. Then, bring this documentation back to the school for us to file. If you have obtained a PVSC within the past year, you will not need to complete a new one. Rather, you will only need to sign an Annual Offense Declaration and a Confidentiality Agreement.

Thank you in advance!

## Parent Information

### School Communication

Almost all of our school communication is distributed via email. There are a number of families who have not provided their email addresses. If you have not been receiving our emails, or are new to the school, please call the office to **provide your current email address** and/or ensure you update your child's index card with your email address when it comes home during the first week of school.

In addition, York Region District School Board requires your consent to receive any electronic messages which contain advertising or promotions regarding school fundraisers, lunch programs, field trips, the sale of yearbooks, purchasing of student photos, books, prom or dance tickets, athletic events with an entry fee or similar events and offers. In order to receive these types of emails, you must subscribe on our [school website](#) by entering your email in the "subscribe to electronic communications of a commercial nature" box. If you have already subscribed, you do not need to do so each year.

We are sending a paper copy of the September newsletter, however all other editions will be sent by email.

### Drop Off and Pick Up

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
- 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, once your child exits the vehicle, proceed around the loop back onto Bridgenorth Drive
- 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
- avoid distractions such as texting or using the phone
- never direct your child to walk through the parking lot
- 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 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
- do not drop your child (or children) off in the bus loop

For students who take the bus to school, please ensure that your child is at the bus stop in advance of the time given to you on the school bus website. Be patient, as the buses are sometimes delayed by traffic. You can check for updates about late or cancelled buses on [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com).

Students who use bicycles, rollerblades, skateboards or scooters to travel to school, please remember the following:

- you must wear a helmet
- you are to walk while on school property
- you should lock bicycles on the bike rack
- you need to store rollerblades, skateboards or scooters in your locker or backpack
- the school is not responsible for any lost or damaged personal items

We will continue to monitor our arrival and dismissal procedures with our students' safety in mind. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

# September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 <b>Labour Day</b>	5 <b>First Day Of School</b>	6 Welcome Assemblies for Students	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 <b>PA Day (No School)</b>	26	27	28 Curriculum Night Join Us!	29 Photo Day 	30

## Date to Remember...

- Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> School Council Meeting and Elections 7pm