

Northern Highlights



Community Update

Week of January 29th, 2024

School Address: 40 Bridgenorth Dr, Aurora ON, L4G 7S6
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 Trustee: Bob McRoberts bob.mcroberts@yrdsb.ca

DATE	ACTIVITIES	UPCOMING
Monday Jan. 29th Day 5	National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack Jr. Girls Volleyball Practice - am recess Jr. Boys Volleyball Practice - pm recess Int. Band Practice - Woodwinds - pm recess Silver Birch Book Club -pm recess	February - Black History Month February - Tamil Heritage Month Feb. 1st - Jr. Girls Volleyball Area Tournament Feb. 2nd - PA Day Feb. 5th - School Council Meeting 6:30 pm Feb. 10th - Lunar New Year May 16th - Immunization clinic at NLPS for Intermediate students
Tuesday Jan. 30th Day 1	Red Maple Book Club Meeting 8:00-8:45 Jr. Boys Volleyball Area Finals @ Wellington - all day Int. Boys Basketball - am recess Int. Band Practice - Brass and Percussion - pm recess Int. Girls Basketball Game vs. Hartman @ NLPS	
Wednesday Jan. 31st Day 2	Graduation Photos The Creativity Club - Grades 6-8 - am recess Int. Girls Basketball Practice - am recess Jr. Girls Volleyball - pm recess Lego Robotics Practice Grades 4-8 - pm recess Student Council Meeting - pm recess Int. Band Practice - after school	
Thursday Feb. 1st Day 3	Jr. Girls Volleyball Area Finals @ Wellington - all day Int Girls Basketball - am recess The Journal Group- Grade 6 - am recess Sub Lunch Int. Boys Basketball - pm recess Lego Robotics Practice Grades 4-8 - pm recess	
Friday Feb. 2nd Day 0	PA DAY - NO SCHOOL TODAY	

INFORMATION & UPDATES

BLACK HISTORY MONTH - Celebration of Black History Month has been a part of Canadian society since the 1950s. Lieutenant Governor Hal Jackman declared February as Black History Month in Ontario in 1993, and in 1995, the Honorable Jean Augustine made the same declaration in the House of Parliament in Ottawa.



TAMIL HERITAGE MONTH ELEMENTARY STUDENT CONFERENCE - [Tamil Heritage Month Elementary Student Conference](#) - Students in grades 5 to 8 are invited to the Elementary Student Conference for Tamil Heritage Month on February 3, 2024, at Milliken Mills High School.

CENTRE FOR BLACK STUDENT EXCELLENCE STUDENT NEWSLETTER: Visit the [January 2024 Centre for Black Student Excellence Newsletter](#) for events, updates, resources and more.



VALENTINE CANDY GRAMS: Student Council will be selling Candy Grams this year from February 5th to 9th to show support for nurses in the HealthCare system. Students will be able to buy a Valentine's Day Candy Gram for \$1 each and write a message to a nurse at SickKids Hospital. Proceeds raised will be donated to The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids Hospital) in Toronto.

SPIRIT WEAR: Spirit Wear is **NOW AVAILABLE** for purchase through the vendor, SchoolTee Screen Printers @ www.schooltee.com Please see [NLPS Spirit Wear Flyer](#) for further details. . Please use **Access Code: NOLI.AUR** to see all products. The deadline to order is Friday, February 9, 2024. Items will be delivered to the school and distributed to students 2-3 weeks after the online store closes. All sales are final. No returns or refunds. Please check sizing before ordering. There are sample sizes of Spirit Wear in the school office for viewing.



FEBRUARY MESSAGE FROM OUR TRUSTEE:

As we start the second semester and second half of the school year, I want to take this opportunity to share some updates about upcoming dates, events and initiatives taking place across our system with you. I also want to thank everyone who contributes to building a strong educational community in York Region District School Board - the students, families, staff members and community partners who come together in support of student learning, achievement and well-being.

*February is **Black History Month**. In addition to a number of [events taking place](#) within the school board and local community, the school board is once again Celebrating Black Excellence through its Black Voices campaign. [Black Voices](#) aims to centre and celebrate the Black members of our YRDSB community and share their voices. For families looking to learn more about school board and community events and programs for Black students and families, you can [subscribe to the Centre for Black Student Excellence mailing list](#) to receive regular updates.*

Later this month, we will also recognize the [Lunar New Year](#) and wish all students, staff and community celebrating Lunar New Year a happy and joyful celebration.

*While we have seen milder **winter weather** this year, I also want to remind families that we have protocols in place for [severe weather](#) and school transportation cancellation in the case of inclement weather, and want to ensure families are aware. You can find more information on the Board website. We also continue to encourage families to use active school travel all year round, including during the winter months. Early in February, we will be celebrating [Winter Walk Day](#), and be sharing tips as well as the benefits and joys of winter walking.*

This month, students in Grades 5-12 will have an opportunity to vote in the [Student Trustee Elections](#). I want to congratulate and thank all of the students in Grade 10 and 11 who applied for this position.

Student Trustees play an important role representing student voice at the Board meetings, and we greatly value their voice and contributions. Students who are eligible to vote will receive information in their GAPPS accounts about how to vote. This is a great opportunity to participate in the democratic process and to have their say about who will represent their voice in the next school year.

*[Kindergarten](#) and [French Immersion registration](#) opened in January for fall 2024. For students looking at **course selection** in secondary school, there are lots of great resources available at www.yrdsb.ca/experience-yrdsb that let students learn more about courses, programs and opportunities that relate to their interests.*

Families in the Aurora area can look forward to the opening of a [new school](#) proposed to open in September 2024. If you live in the boundary area, you can expect to receive information about next steps and an update on the [naming process](#).

You can also stay up-to-date with what's happening around the Board by visiting our [newsroom](#) - some of the latest stories feature schools in our area - or by listening to the Board's award-winning [podcast](#)

[Tune In YRDSB](#), including recent and upcoming episodes on what to expect in Kindergarten, how Student Trustees represent student voice, Tamil Heritage Month, Hindu Heritage Month and more.

As the governing body of the York Region District School Board, trustees are required to establish an annual **Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP)** to guide system direction for a four-year period. The MYSP is a reflection of emergent priorities identified by our educational communities. Over the coming months, we will be conducting extensive consultations with YRDSB students, staff, families and community members to collect input and feedback to develop our revised MYSP. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for all that you do to partner with us in building a strong publicly funded education system that delivers a high-quality education for your children. You can learn more about my role as a school trustee and [how you can reach me](#) on the Board website www.yrdsb.ca.



Melanie Wright, Aurora and Whitchurch-Stouffville

INFORMATION FROM PREVIOUS ISSUES OF THE NORTHERN HIGHLIGHTS

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY PLANS FOR FRIDAY FEBRUARY 2nd, 2024: Friday Feb. 2 is a full day PA Day with **no classes for students on this day**. Staff will be engaging in self-directed learning to support instructional strategies including areas of literacy and mathematics.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION: Registration for our new Kindergarten students will begin on January 19th. Eligible children will have birth dates of **2020 for Year One FDK, and 2019** for Year Two FDK.

- Online - Families can access the online Kindergarten registration information at www.yrdsb.ca/kindergarten registration. It is recommended that families use a laptop or a desktop, rather than a mobile device to complete this registration.
- By email - Families can download the [Elementary School Registration Form](#) at www.yrdsb.ca/kindergarten and email the completed form to their school email address.
- By phone - Families can request support to complete the registration form on their behalf by collecting the required information by phone. Families can request an interpreter, if needed.

In-person at the school - Families may visit the school office to drop off or complete a registration form.

SCHOOLYARD SAFETY: Please note that **school supervision begins at 8:30**. Students should not arrive prior to 8:30 as there will be no supervision for them at that time. As well, children should be picked up at the end of the school day at 3:15 as school supervision ends at 3:30.

PLAY STRUCTURE CLOSED: Our school play structure is closed at this time. We ask that families refrain from making use of it outside of school hours as well.

PARENT CAREGIVER SERIES SUPPORTING LEARNING ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH: The YRDSB Central Mental Health Team is proud to be offering the Learning about Mental Health Presentation Series (LAMPS). To register please visit [this link](#). **The last day to register is February 27, 2024.**

NEWCOMER ANIME CLUB: The newcomer anime club is available to students from age 13-18 at the Aurora Public Library. If your child is interested in attending please view the following [link](#).

YEARBOOK COVER CONTEST: Students in Grades 4-8 are invited to submit their artwork for the yearbook cover contest. Please submit your entry to Ms. H. Jackson in Room 210 by Friday, February 16. Additional details may be found through [this link](#).

VALENTINE SPRINKLE COOKIE: Northern Lights P.S. will be holding a ONE DAY ONLY fundraiser selling Valentine Sprinkle Cookies. These Healthier Choice soft cookies are individually wrapped and come from a peanut and NUT FREE facility. The cookies are available for purchase through School Cash Online until February 2, 2024. Cookies will be distributed to students in their classroom on February 14th before first recess. All orders must be made online. Cookies will NOT be sold in person. Funds raised will be in support of the Grade 8 graduation celebrations and year end graduation trip. Thank you for supporting this yummy fundraiser!