

# Northern Highlights



## Community Update

Week of September 9th, 2024

School Address 40 Bridgenorth Dr, Aurora ON, L4G 7S6  
 Phone Number 905-727-4224  
 Principal: Jodi Fine [jodi.fine@yrdsb.ca](mailto:jodi.fine@yrdsb.ca)  
 Elementary Office Admin. Assist.: [diane.oreilly@yrdsb.ca](mailto:diane.oreilly@yrdsb.ca)  
 Diane O'Reilly  
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 Trustee: Melanie Wright [melanie.wright@yrdsb.ca](mailto:melanie.wright@yrdsb.ca)

DATE	ACTIVITIES	UPCOMING
Monday Sept. 9 Day 5		September is Deaf Awareness Month Terry Fox Run - Friday, September 20, 2024 School Council - Monday, September 23, 2024 Meet the Staff Night - Thursday, September 26, 2024 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - September 30, 2024 School Picture Day - Tuesday, October 8, 2024 Picture Retake Day - Tuesday, November 5, 2024
Tuesday Sept. 10 Day 1		
Wednesday Sept. 11 Day 2		
Thursday Sept. 12 Day 3		
Friday Sept. 13 Day 3		

### \*INFORMATION & UPDATES\*

**PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:** Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year. It is our pleasure to welcome all of our new and returning families. We hope you all had a safe, healthy and enjoyable summer.

The professional and dedicated team of staff at Northern Lights Public School have a strong commitment to supporting your child's learning, achievement and well-being. We have been working hard to prepare to welcome your child to school and to create a learning environment where they feel safe, welcome, valued and respected.

There are some important things we want to share at the start of the school year:

- This start-up package includes important information about our school, and I encourage you to review it.
- The [Guide to the School Year](https://www2.yrdsb.ca/school-year-guide) includes important information you may need to access throughout the school year. You can use the translation feature on the website to translate this content. Find the guide at <https://www2.yrdsb.ca/school-year-guide>.
- Each year we ask families to complete important start-up forms. You will receive an email in the coming weeks from the Board with a link to the online forms. Please review and complete the forms. If you prefer to receive and complete a paper copy, please contact the main office.

We value the relationship and partnership we have with families and look forward to connecting and working with you throughout the school year. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions. We welcome the opportunity to connect with you. There are many ways to stay connected with what's happening in our school:

- Visit our school website for up-to-date information about events.
- Review the weekly Northern Highlights newsletter which will be sent to you each Friday by email.
- You can also find updated information about the Board at [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca), X (formerly Twitter) @YRDSB, Instagram @yrdsb.schools, or the Board podcast TuneIn YRDSB wherever you listen to podcasts.

**MEDICATION/EPIPENS:** If your child requires access to an EpiPen, or any other medication, at school, please make sure to send in the EpiPen/medication, and sign and send in the required forms as soon as possible. Forms will be sent out during the first week of school. If for some reason, you have not received the forms, you can access the [Staff Administration of Medication Form](#) or [Self-Administration of Medication Form](#) fillable forms using these links. If you have questions, please reach out to Ms. O'Reilly via email at [diane.oreilly@yrdsb.ca](mailto:diane.oreilly@yrdsb.ca) and she will be sure to assist you.

**BIKES ON SCHOOL PROPERTY:** We kindly ask that if your child/ren is/are riding bikes to school, to ensure once they are on school property that they walk their bike to the rack and safely lock it up.

**STUDENT SAFE ARRIVAL - ABSENCES OR LATES:** Letting us know of lates and absences greatly reduces the time our office staff have to spend calling parents in the morning and after lunch daily. If you do not report your child absent, you will receive an absence notification call and email. If you do not reply, we will call your emergency contact. Our Board Safe Arrival procedure dictates that if we can't reach you or your emergency contact after a set amount of time and your child is not at school, we must contact York Region Police. To help us ensure all students are safe and accounted for quickly each morning and after lunch, please:

- report all absences, late arrivals and/or changes to departure plans to the school in a timely manner by entering the absence/late through [School Attendance Reporting](#) ([yrdsb.edsby.com](http://yrdsb.edsby.com)) or by **calling the school at (905) 727-4224**
- ensure we have your complete and current contact information and your emergency contact information

After the first day of school, parents/guardians of **new students will receive an invitation** to set up an Edsby account. **It is very important that you do so right away** as Edsby is an important tool for communication and attendance. Should you need assistance, please contact the main office and we would be happy to help.

**INSTRUCTIONAL TIME:** In partnership with our parent/guardian community, we work very hard at Northern Lights PS to avoid interruptions to instructional time. To that end, we ask families to please ensure that students come to school with all of the belongings that they need for the school day (e.g., water bottles, lunches, homework, gym clothes, outdoor clothing etc.). Please avoid drop-offs to the office during the school day. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

**YRDSB SCHOOL START-UP PACKAGE 2024-2025:** At the start of each school year, families are provided with a package of information about the school with a link to the [Guide to the School Year](#) booklet, and some forms parents/guardians need to complete. These will be sent to you in the coming week.

**We ask that you complete and submit these online School Start-Up Forms as soon as possible.** It is important that these forms are completed at the start of the school year. There are both mandatory and optional forms.

Families with more than one child will receive more than one invitation to the form. Please complete a separate form for each child attending our schools. The forms should be completed for all students. If you are not able to locate the invitation, the [Start-Up Forms](#) can be found on the YRDSB website. For ease of access, the forms are available in many languages.

**IMPORTANT: You MUST be logged into your child's YRDSB GAPPs account to complete the digital Start-Up Forms.** If you prefer to complete the forms on paper or have questions about the information in the forms, please contact the main office.

**NLPS SCHOOL COUNCIL – JOIN US!** Our School Council is made up of NLPS parents/guardians. We meet approximately 5-6 times throughout the school year to share updates and provide input toward our school improvement plan. Our first school council meeting for the 2024-2025 school year will be held on September 23rd at 6:30 pm in person at the school. If you are interested in running for an elected School Council position (e.g., Chair, Secretary, Treasurer), please fill in and return the nomination form included in the email with your School Start Up Forms. Please send in your intent to participate in School Council before our September 23rd meeting. All are welcome and we hope to see you there!

**CELL PHONES:** A reminder that personal **cell phones are not allowed** in the classrooms, hallways, or outside during recess. Students are to leave their phones in their lockers or on the teacher's desk until the end of the day. Students have access to technology with Chromebooks/iPads in their classrooms. If parents/guardians need to contact their child/ren during the school day, we ask that you not text students directly. Instead, please call the office and leave a message.

**LUNCHBOX PROGRAM:** We are very excited to offer the Lunchbox program at Northern Lights Public School this year. The program will run weekly from Monday to Thursday. Families are able to place lunch orders with various vendors on specific dates. Further information has been emailed to families today. Orders are placed through SchoolCash Online. **The first orders will be delivered to the school the week of September 23, 2024.** Remember to place your orders!

**PIZZA LUNCH FRIDAYS:** The Friday Pizza Lunch program will begin in October. Further details will be shared with families next week.

**SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR:** The [2024-2025 School Year Calendars](#) are now available. These calendars provide information about PA Days, school holidays, and our 5-day cycle.

**MINISTRY CLASS SIZE COMPLIANCE:** We will be monitoring our student registrations closely this month. If any changes in classes are required in order to align with Ministry class size compliance requirements, we will communicate these changes with families near the end of September.

**DOGS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY:** A gentle reminder that your cute, four-legged friends must be on a leash at all times when on school property. We kindly ask that you avoid walking your dog on our back tarmac and field during recess times (10:25-10:55 and 12:55-1:35) as we have a number of students who are quite allergic.

**SPIRIT WEAR:** Spirit Wear is NOW AVAILABLE for purchase through the vendor, SchoolTee Screen Printers @ [www.schooltee.com](http://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 27, 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 the sizing before ordering. There are sample sizes in the school office for viewing.

**GIVE FALL FLYER:** Join our workshop series and discover how you can make a difference in your child's education by volunteering in schools. Empower yourself to support our school community and enrich your child's learning experience! [Click here for more information](#).

**MESSAGE FROM OUR TRUSTEE:** Welcome to the start of the 2024-2025 school year. I'm so pleased to welcome all of our new and returning students and families to a new school year and that our families and staff had an enjoyable summer break.

**How Trustees Help** - As school board trustees, we have a number of [roles and responsibilities](#), including setting policies and budget and advocating for quality public education. My responsibilities also include communicating with the public. I will continue to keep you informed throughout the school year through these regular newsletters. You can also reach out to me directly. Learn more about [how we can help](#) and [how you can reach me](#) if you have any questions or concerns. You can also stay up-to-date with school board news and events through school communications, social media (X [@YRDSB](#) and [Instagram @yrdsb.schools](#)), our [newsroom](#) and Board podcast [TuneIn YRDSB](#).

**Our Priorities as a School Board** - One of our responsibilities as a Board of Trustees is also setting the Multi-Year Strategic Plan. This plan outlines the priorities that will guide our work as a school board for the next several years. We want to thank the many students, family and staff members and community partners who shared feedback in the spring that was used to inform the development of the plan. Some key themes emerged in the feedback that families will see reflected in the plan, including a clear focus on student achievement and well-being. We look forward to sharing more with you very soon.

**A New School Year** - The start of a new school year is a time of transition - whether your child is starting elementary or secondary school for the first time, entering a new program, moving to a new school or beginning a new grade. The caring, dedicated and professional staff members who work in our system are here to help support your child through this transition. Please feel free to reach out to your child's teachers or the school to speak about your child's transition and the supports that are available. There are also many [student support resources available](#) on our board website, including [mental health supports and resources](#).

We also recognize that transitions can take place throughout September. Elementary schools may be required to adjust some classes due to enrollment changes and class size restrictions. In secondary school, schools may also see timetable requests and adjustments in the first few weeks. These are occurrences that happen each fall and schools do their best to be responsive and to minimize the effects of any changes on students.

**Partnerships with Families** - We value the essential partnership between schools and families and want to ensure that families are aware of the many resources available. Our [family resources page](#), available from the homepage of [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca), gives you quick access to platforms that we use, tips and information, the [Guide to the School Year](#) and [student learning resources](#). It also includes resources for [newcomers](#), [translation information](#) and much more. We are also working on a dedicated new family portal to make it easier for families to engage with their child's education. To ensure you receive notifications and updates, please make sure the school has your up-to-date email address. If you are not receiving emails, please contact your school to confirm. More information will be shared in the coming months.

I wish you and your family all the very best for a safe, successful and enjoyable 2024-2025 school year, and look forward to communicating with you in the months ahead.

Melanie Wright  
Trustee, Aurora and Whitchurch-Stouffville

\*INFORMATION FROM PREVIOUS ISSUES OF THE NORTHERN HIGHLIGHTS\*