


Northern Highlights



Community Update

Week of January 6th, 2025

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DATE	ACTIVITIES	UPCOMING
Monday Jan. 6 Day 1	Welcome Back! - First Day of Classes	Jan. 13 - School Council Jan. 17 - Kindergarten Registration Begins 
Tuesday Jan. 7 Day 2		
Wednesday Jan. 8 Day 3		
Thursday Jan. 9 Day 4		
Friday Jan. 10 Day 5		

INFORMATION & UPDATES

SEASON'S GREETINGS: As we approach the holiday season, we want to extend our warmest wishes to each of you. May this time be filled with joy, laughter, and loved ones. We look forward to everyone's return on January 6th, ready for a new year of learning and growth. Wishing you a safe, and enjoyable holiday season and a happy New Year!

YEAR-END MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND DIRECTOR: As we head towards the winter break, we want to thank you for your continued partnership and support as we work together to provide your children with a positive and successful school experience. It matters to us that every child has access to the learning, environment and support they need to be successful in school. That drives our work every day. Since the start of the school year, we have:

- **Launched the [Board of Trustees' Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#).** The plan sets out the priorities that guide our work and was heavily informed by feedback from families, staff, students and community partners.
- **Introduced a [Family Dashboard](#)** to give you easier one-stop access to tools and resources that support your child's education.
- **[Celebrated](#) some of the outstanding individuals in our system**, including students earning provincial recognition, a teacher at Milliken Mills HS who received the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence, and the staff at our Museum and Archives who received a Governor General's History Award for Excellence in Community Programming.
- Provided regular **professional development opportunities** for educators and other school board staff, because we know how important this ongoing learning is for staff and for students.
- Co-developed a [mental health symposium](#) with student advisors that equips student leaders to inspire change and champion mental health in their schools. Students across our board are transforming conversations about mental health.
- Held a series of regional [school council forums](#), bringing together school council representatives for an evening of shared learning and discussion.

- Had the privilege of [providing space for the Georgina Island First Nation Pow Wow](#) at Sutton District HS, an opportunity for attendees to come together to celebrate and learn about Indigenous culture.

These are just a few examples of the amazing things that happen in our schools daily, thanks to the dedication, collaboration and innovation shown by students, staff and families. Thank you for all that you do to support this work in our schools and at home. We greatly value the partnership we have with families. We know that many members of our community will be recognizing significant dates and holidays throughout this season. We wish you all the very best for a safe, joyous and relaxing celebration, and a restful and recharging winter break.

We look forward to welcoming you back to school in 2025.

Ron Lynn, Chair
Bill Cober, Director

DROPPING OFF/PICKING UP: It has come to our attention that many parents/guardians are making u-turns on Bridgenorth Drive when dropping off/picking up their child(ren), which poses a significant safety risk. To ensure a safe environment for everyone, we kindly ask that you use the designated kiss-and-ride area in the parking lot or park on one of the side streets and walk your child safely onto school property. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

INFORMATION FROM PREVIOUS ISSUES OF THE NORTHERN HIGHLIGHTS

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION: Is your child turning 4 or 5 in 2025? Mark your calendars. Kindergarten registration opens on January 17.

How to Register:

- **Online** - Families can access the online Kindergarten registration information at www.yrdsb.ca/kindergarten. It is recommended that families use a laptop, or desktop, rather than a mobile device to complete the registration. Current families can also find the program registration link in the [Family Dashboard](#).
- **By email** - Families can download the [Elementary School Registration Form](#) at www.yrdsb.ca/Kindergarten and email the completed form to northern.lights.ps@yrdsb.ca
- **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, during this phone conversation.
- **In-person at the school** - Families may visit the school office to drop off or complete the registration form.

Once you have completed your application, the school will contact you to make an appointment to review and verify the [required documents](#).

FRENCH IMMERSION: Registration will take place from January 17th - February 10, 2025. An in-person information session will be offered at [French Immersion program locations](#) on January 16, 2025, at 7 pm. Registration is not first-come, first-served. Parents/guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2025 and wishing to enroll in the FI Program can email or call their home school office (where your child currently attends) and declare their intention to register in FI. Late registrations are those submitted after February 10, 2025. Late registrations will be treated on a first-come, first-served basis and will be considered subsequent to registrations received during the registration period should overflow be necessary. Families registering students who do not currently attend a YRDSB school will need to complete full registration paperwork at their designated FI school. Please contact the school to make an appointment.

BAYTHORN ARTS APPLICATION OPEN: The Arts@Baythorn invites students to explore Dance, Drama, Visual Arts and Music integrated into learning each and every day in a collaborative & cooperative learning environment. Applications open Jan. 13, 2025. [Please click here](#) to see the flyer for more information.